

TECHNICAL PROBLEMS

MICHAEL D. SHEAR

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WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama declared Monday that "nobody is madder than me" about the failures of the government's health care website, but said the technical problems did not indicate a broader failure of the Affordable Care Act.



Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services, listens in the Rose Garden at the White House in Washington, Oct. 21, 2013.

(Gabriella Demczuk/The New York Times)

"We did not wage this long and contentious battle just around a website. That's not what this was about," Obama told supporters during 25-minute remarks in the Rose Garden.

The president acknowledged that HealthCare.gov had not provided the easy opportunity to sign up for health insurance that White House officials promised for months. But he said that some people had managed to get insurance, and he urged critics of the law to support it.

"It's time for folks to stop rooting for its failure, because hardworking, middle-class families are rooting for its success," he said. The White House event was intended as a response to mounting criticism of the health care law in the wake of the website's failures.

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CURBED APPEAL



David Gibson, right, and Richard Kiamco of Jersey City make history as they become the first official same-sex couple to be married in Jersey City in a ceremony officiated by Mayor Steve Fulop at 12:01 a.m. Monday, Oct. 21, 2013, at City Hall. Seven other gay couples also participated in the ceremony.

(AP Photo/Reena Rose Sibayan)

Christie withdraws appeal of same-sex marriage ruling

MARC SANTORA

KATE ZERNIKE

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Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey announced Monday that he would drop his legal challenge to same-sex marriage, hours after same-sex couples started exchanging vows in midnight ceremonies across the state.

Christie's withdrawal of his appeal to the court decision that allowed the marriages came on the heels of a ruling by the state's Supreme Court on Friday that rejected his attempt to block the marriages until the appeal was resolved. His decision effectively removed the last hurdle to making same-sex marriage legal in New Jersey.

"Although the governor strongly disagrees with the court substituting its judgment for the constitutional process of the elected branches or a vote of the people, the court has now spoken clearly as to their view of the New Jersey Constitution and, therefore, same-sex marriage is the law," a spokesman for Christie said in a note to reporters Monday morning. "The governor will do his constitutional duty and ensure his administration enforces the law as dictated by the New Jersey Supreme Court."

At 12:01 a.m., New Jersey joined 13 other states and the District of Columbia in allowing gay couples to marry.

As images of joyous wedding celebrations from Jersey City to Asbury Park filled the airwaves, Christie sent a letter overnight to the lawyers fighting on behalf of the gay couples in the court case, and to the Supreme Court, announcing that he would drop any further opposition. Christie, a Republican widely considered a leading contender for his party's presidential nomination in 2016, has long tried to walk a fine line on same-sex marriage, which polls show is popular in his home state, but opposed by conservative voters in key primary states. Last year, he vetoed legislation allowing same-sex marriage, arguing that voters should decide the issue

in a referendum instead. As recently as last week, he repeated his position that he believed marriage to be between a man and a woman. But the court was unanimous in its decision to deny the administration's request for a stay on marriages, and the justices said in their decision that they believed the administration's appeal had no "reasonable probability of success." The governor, in consultation with his attorney general and chief counsel, concluded it would be what one aide called "a fool's errand" to continue in the face of almost certain failure.

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New report of spying by security agency angers France

ALISSA J. RUBIN

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PARIS - The National Security Agency has carried out extensive electronic surveillance in France, a French newspaper reported Monday, drawing an angry condemnation from an important U.S. ally.

The report, based on secret documents leaked by Edward J. Snowden, was published in Le Monde, the authoritative French newspaper, the day Secretary of State John Kerry arrived here for an official visit.

Adding to the previous disclosures about the agency's wide surveillance net abroad, the article said the agency had recorded 70 million digital communications in a single month, from Dec. 10, 2012, to Jan. 8, 2013.

French officials called the spying "totally unacceptable" and demanded that it cease.

The Foreign Ministry summoned the U.S. ambassador, Charles H. Rivkin, who met with ministry officials Monday morning.

"These kinds of practices between partners are totally unacceptable and we must be assured that they are no longer being implemented," Rivkin was told, according to a ministry spokesman, Alexandre Giorgini.

The interior minister, Manuel Valls, speaking on Europe 1 Radio, called the revelations "shocking" and said they "will require explanation."

"If an allied country is spying on France, it's totally unacceptable," he said. Previous revelations from the documents leaked by Snowden, a fugitive former NSA contractor, had already pulled the veil off NSA spying on other allies, including Germany, England, Brazil and Mexico. In June, the German magazine Der Spiegel reported that the agency had eavesdropped on EU offices in Brussels and Washington.

Probably the most serious diplomatic breach was the revelation in September that the NSA had inter-

cepted the communications of the Brazilian president, Dilma Rousseff. Brazil termed the spying "an unacceptable violation of

sovereignty."

The newspaper report Monday was co-written by Glenn Greenwald, an American journalist whose

articles have conveyed most of the Snowden revelations published so far, and a Le Monde correspondent.

The report did not make entirely clear what exactly the NSA had swept up but it appeared that the agency took a vacuum-cleaner approach, recording 70 million communications, the report said, including telephone calls and instant messages. It was not clear how many of those were listened to or read.

The article also noted that the interceptions were coded "Drtbox" and "Whitebox" with the vast majority falling into the former category. However, it was not clear what those categories implied, nor why the report was limited to a single month.

Le Monde went on to say that the documents indicated that in addition to tracking communications between people suspected of having links to terrorism, the NSA surveillance program may have targeted communications involving prominent figures in the worlds of business, politics or the French administration. □



In a photo released by the U.S. Department of State, Secretary of State John Kerry shook hands with U.S. Ambassador to France Charles Rivkin upon arriving in Paris, Monday, Oct. 21, 2013. The National Security Agency has carried out extensive electronic surveillance in France, a French newspaper reported Monday, drawing an angry condemnation from an important American ally. (U.S. State Department via The New York Times)

Israel awards Bloomberg \$1M 'Jewish Nobel'

ARON HELLER
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel on Monday recognized New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg as the first recipient of the \$1 million Genesis Prize, an award popularly dubbed the "Jewish Nobel Prize." The Genesis Prize Foundation said Bloomberg was honored for his long record of public service and philanthropy. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will present the prize to Bloomberg early next year in Israel. Bloomberg, a billionaire, will then announce to which philanthropic cause he will donate the money. Bloomberg, whose third and final term as New York mayor is drawing to an end, said he was honored to be chosen. "I got a call from Netanyahu this morning to congratulate me, and we'll work out a date when I can be in Israel to accept it," Bloomberg told a news conference in New York.

Bloomberg said he has not yet decided what to do with the money, though he said he bounced around

terrelationships in a very difficult part of the world," he said. Bloomberg beat out 200 other nominees for the

man beings who, through their outstanding achievement, come to represent a fundamental value of the



New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg attends a ceremony for the Magen David Adom's William H. Bloomberg Jerusalem Station, named after his late father in Jerusalem. Israel has recognized New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg as the first ever recipient of an award dubbed the "Jewish Nobel Prize."

(AP Photo/Sebastian Scheiner)

some ideas with the Israeli leader. "I want to use it to do something that will fos-

prize, which the foundation said was established "to recognize exceptional hu-

Jewish people — a commitment to the betterment of mankind." □



This image provided by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police shows sex offender Michael Sean Stanley. (AP Photo/RCMP)

Sex offender who fled to Seattle said close to preschool

MIKE BAKER
Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — A sex offender who caused school closures before he fled Canada now lives a block away from a preschool in Seattle, police records show.

Michael Sean Stanley cut off his electronic monitoring bracelet in Canada earlier this month. Canadian officials issued a public alert describing Stanley as an untreated, violent offender who posed a significant risk. Unconfirmed sightings of the Edmonton man led schools in several west-central Saskatchewan communities to lock their doors and keep children inside. Stanley, a U.S. citizen, crossed the border and was located in the Seattle area last week. Authorities asked him to register as a sex offender after Canadian officials decided not to seek extradition. His address online is listed as an intersection just a block away from Pike Place Market, a scenic destination for both tourists and locals. It's also near a preschool. Stanley, who has a lengthy history of offenses against women and children, had been ordered to stay away from children.

Washington state's sex offender registry listed Stanley on Monday as a transient "level 2" offender. Sheriff's Office Sgt. Cindi West said she was checking to see why Stanley was not given a "level 3" status reserved for high-risk offenders. □

Obama pushes health law; concedes website problems

Continued from Front

Many people have been unable to sign on to the site or create accounts, and technical advisers who have worked on the site say it could take weeks or months to fix.

Obama said there was "no excuse" for the problems, but he did not say whether anyone in the government would be fired because of the failures. Some Republicans have called for Kathleen Sebelius, the secretary of health and human services, to be dismissed over the site's technical problems.

Obama also sought to highlight other ways to sign up for insurance, including expanded call centers and in-person "navigators" who are at hospitals and health care centers around the country. People can also download a form to fill out and mail in, he said.

Obama read out a toll-free telephone number -

800-318-2596 - that people could call to sign up for insurance instead of going to the website.

He said waiting times had been only one minute on the phone, though he acknowledged that his reading the number on television could change that.

Several calls to the number immediately after he read it produced busy signals.

Still, Obama urged people to separate the website's problems from the purpose of the law, which he said was to find a way to provide affordable health insurance to millions of Amer-

icans who do not have it. "The product is good. The health insurance that is being provided is good. It's high quality and it's affordable," Obama said.

"We know that the demand is there. People are rushing to see what's there." □



President Barack Obama gestures while speaking in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, Monday, Oct. 21, 2013, on the initial rollout of the health care overhaul.

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

Christie withdraws appeal of same-sex marriage ruling

Continued from Front

Christie's advisers said they did not believe it would hurt him politically; the governor has long branded himself as the kind of politician that voters like because they know where he stands, even if they do not agree with him. In this case, he can argue that he did not reverse his position; he still opposes same-sex marriage, but his back was to the wall.

In the short term - he stands for re-election in two weeks - he may win some votes in New Jersey. Among conservative voters in 2016, he can blame activist judges - an argument that also resonates among Republican primary voters.

"He looks realistic, while sticking to his principles - and people are happy," said one adviser.

Lawrence Lustberg, who argued the case for the



Beth Asaro, left, and Joanne Schailey, right, celebrate after exchanging vows as Lambertville Mayor David DelVecchio officiates in the first same-sex marriage in Lambertville history at 12:01 a.m., Monday, Oct. 21, 2013 in Lambertville, N.J. Asaro and Schailey hold the distinction of being the first couple to enter into a civil union in the state, when that law took effect in 2007.

(AP Photo/Rich Schultz)

gay and lesbian couples before the state Supreme Court, said that as he attended the overnight wedding celebrations, he was anticipating the governor's decision, which was then

confirmed by the letter he received Monday morning. "I think the handwriting was on the wall as clearly as it could possibly be," he said. "The governor had always said he would fight this all

the way up to the Supreme Court, but he didn't say he was going to fight it to the Supreme Court twice. As a matter of reasonable lawyering on the one hand, and a clear perception of what the court's position was on the other, this was inevitable."

The legal landscape has changed significantly since Christie vetoed legislation in 2012 that would have made gay marriage legal in the state.

Advocates of same-sex marriage viewed Christie's withdrawal from the legal battle as the victory they have long sought.

"This is the day we've been waiting for. This is the day we've been fighting for. This is the day we won," said Troy Stevenson, executive director of Garden State Equality, the state's most prominent gay rights group. "Marriage equality is the law of the land in New Jersey at last." □

Student kills teacher, himself, at Nevada middle school

TIMOTHY WILLIAMS

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A Nevada middle school student shot and killed a mathematics teacher on Monday, then fatally shot himself in front of children who were gathering for class at the beginning of the school day, the authorities said.

The teacher was killed while trying to protect other students from the armed boy, the authorities said.

The boy, whose name and age have not been released, also wounded two other students during the attack, but hospital officials said their injuries were not life-threatening.

On Monday afternoon, one of the students was listed in serious condition and the other was in fair condition, hospital officials said.

It was not immediately clear what prompted the shooting, which occurred at Sparks Middle School in



Police secure the scene near Sparks Middle School after a shooting in Sparks, Nev., on Monday, Oct. 21, 2013. Authorities are reporting that two people were killed and two wounded at the Nevada middle school.

(AP Photo/Kevin Clifford)

Sparks, Nev., about 7:15 a.m., just before the start of school, said Tom Robinson, deputy chief of the Reno Police Department. Sparks, a city of 90,000 people, is just east of Reno.

Students were returning Monday from a weeklong fall break.

"As you can imagine, the best description is chaos," said Robinson, several hours after the attack.

"It's too early to say whether he was targeting people or going on an indiscriminate shooting spree."

The Sparks Police Department posted a note on its website in the hours after the shooting reading: "Stay away from Sparks Middle School 2275 18th St. We believe the suspect has been neutralized."

The note was later removed.

The authorities have not released the name of the teacher, who the authorities said had been trying to keep children away from the gun-wielding boy.

"In my estimation, he is a hero," said Robinson. "We do know he was trying to intervene." Sparks Middle School has an enrollment of 630 seventh- and eighth-grade students, according to its website.

Classes at the school have been canceled for the rest of the week. Gov. Brian Sandoval of Nevada said in a statement that he was "deeply saddened to learn of the horrific shooting" and that the Nevada Highway Patrol was assisting. Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., called it "a traumatic morning."

Reid's statement continued, "No words of condolence could possibly ease the pain, but I hope it is some small comfort that Nevada mourns with them."

A note on the school's website said that all middle schools in Washoe County had implemented a "safe zones" policy, whereby any student who "feels threatened, bullied, or the recipient of acts of violence" can go into a designated classroom staffed by a teacher.

US transit strike has commuters facing gridlock

LISA LEFF

TRACIE CONE

Associated Press

OAKLAND, California (AP)

— Frustrated San Francisco Bay Area commuters started work Monday facing gridlocked roadways and long lines for buses and ferries as a major transit strike entered its fourth day, increasing pressure on negotiators to reach a deal that resumes train service.

U.S. investigators, meanwhile, were searching for clues to a weekend train mishap that killed two workers.

BART has said a four-car train carrying several employees was returning Saturday from a routine maintenance trip and being run under computer control when it struck workers inspecting a section of track in Walnut Creek.

The Coroner's Office identified the victims as Laurence Daniels, 66, and Christopher Sheppard, 58. BART has said one was an employee and the other a contractor, but further details weren't immediately available.

The train was not carrying any passengers due to the strike.

The workers were the sixth and seventh to die on the job in the system's 41-year history.

There were signs of movement from the Bay Area Rapid Transit agency and its unions Monday, but no new talks were scheduled. Traffic leading to the San Francisco-Oakland Bay

Bridge was already snarled for miles (kilometers) by 6 a.m. At BART's station in Walnut Creek, the line for charter buses was at least a hundred-people deep before dawn.



With the BART transit system on strike, traffic slows on Interstate 80 leading to the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge during the morning commute Monday, Oct. 21, 2013, in Berkeley, Calif. San Francisco Bay Area commuters started the new work week on Monday with gridlocked roadways and long lines for buses and ferries as a major transit strike entered its fourth day. At the same time, federal investigators were searching for clues to a weekend train crash that killed two workers.

(AP Photo/Eric Risberg)



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Ohio kidnapping survivors are now working on book

HILLEL ITALIE

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Two of the three women held captive for a decade in a Cleveland house are collaborating with a prize-winning team of Washington Post reporters for a planned book about their ordeal.

In a statement issued Monday to The Associated Press, an attorney for Amanda Berry and Gina DeJesus said they will work with the Post's Mary Jordan, a Cleveland native, and her husband and fellow reporter, Kevin Sullivan. No meetings with publishers have been scheduled. Negotiations for the book will be handled by Washington-based attorney Robert Barnett, whose clients have included President Barack Obama.

"Many have told, and continue to tell, this story in ways that are both inaccurate and beyond the control of these young women," said James Wooley, the attorney for Berry and DeJesus. "Our clients have a strong desire for privacy, but it is a reality that confronts them every day. Gina, Amanda and their families have decided to take control and are now interested in telling the story of what happened to them."

Wooley said in his statement that he had known Jordan for years and contacted her about the project. Jordan told the AP during a recent interview that she was drawn to the "resilience" of Berry and DeJesus and was eager to help them tell an "amazing story of overcoming adversity." In 2003, she and Sullivan won a Pulitzer for their series about the Mexican criminal justice system. □

Prosecutor: American planned to aid al-Qaida

LINDA DEUTSCH

AP Special Correspondent

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A

24-year-old American charged with attempting to assist al-Qaida in international terrorism was enticed into confessing to an undercover FBI agent who posed as a recruiter for the extremist organization and provided him with a false passport, a prosecutor told a judge Monday.

In an extensive inquiry, U.S. District Judge John Walter demanded more information on the case against Sinh Vinh Ngo Nguyen of Garden Grove, California, expressing skepticism about some of the evidence. His questioning revealed new facts about the case that depicts Nguyen as a wannabe terrorist with no special skills to offer al-Qaida.

Nguyen appeared in court with his hands shackled to his waist. His appearance was dramatically changed from the time of his arrest, when he had long hair and a beard. He was clean shaven with a close cropped haircut and made no comment during the hearing. He was ordered held without bail.

Nguyen has pleaded not guilty to two charges of making a false statement on a passport and attempting to provide material support and resources to a terrorist organization. Assistant U.S. Attorney Judith Heinz said evidence against Nguyen was gathered by a confidential informant and an undercover FBI agent who posed as an al-Qaida recruiter. Nguyen had reached out on the Internet and on his Facebook page to join the terrorist group, the prosecutor said.

He was arrested Oct. 11 at a Santa Ana bus station as

he prepared to board a bus for Mexico with plane tickets to his ultimate destination in Pakistan, authorities said. The undercover

agent escorted him to the bus and had told him they would be meeting "his sheik" in Peshawar, the prosecutor said.

When agents moved in to arrest him, Nguyen exclaimed, "'How did you guys find out?'" Heinz said. The prosecutor said Nguyen had his fake passport, \$1,850 in Syrian currency and a pamphlet with extensive instructions on shooting and setting up battle plans.

In his home, she said they found three swords, two large axes, two hatchets and a copy of the famous tome, "The Art of War."

Heinz said the government would allege that Nguyen planned to offer himself as a trainer of some 30 al-Qaida forces for an ambush against coalition forces in Syria, where he had already spent five months fighting with rebels.

"He would train them in shooting," Heinz said. □



Minh Nguyen, a sister of Sinh Vinh Ngo Nguyen, declines to talk to the media as she arrives at her family home in Garden Grove, Calif. Nguyen has pleaded not guilty to two charges of making a false statement on a passport and attempting to provide material support and resources to a terrorist organization.

(AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

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Las Vegas Police: Door charge dispute blamed in shooting

KEN RITTER
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A \$30 cover charge led to a nightclub shooting early Monday on the Las Vegas Strip that left one patron dead when he tried to subdue the gunman and two employees in critical condition, officials said. A man opened fire about 5:45 a.m. wounding a manager and a guard at Drai's After Hours, a club at Bally's hotel-casino, police Sgt. John Sheahan said. Another guard might have been injured. Sheahan said the nightclub

was open at the time and the shooter was believed to have acted alone. He was hospitalized with unspecified injuries. Sheahan said the male patron was fatally wounded trying to subdue the gunman as people ran from the club. "The person is in custody. The weapon is in custody," Sheahan said. "There are no outstanding suspects in this incident." Three people were taken by ambulance to University Medical Center, where spokeswoman Danita Cohen said one died and two

remained in critical condition. Their names weren't immediately made public. Sheahan said the gunman is expected to face murder and multiple attempted murder charges. Authorities said he paid the cover charge then demanded his money back before opening fire. The club has a capacity of about 500 people and charges \$30 for entry, said Celena Haas-Stacey, a spokeswoman for Bally's hotel owner Caesars Entertainment Corp. □



Security personnel cordon off the scene of an early morning shooting at Bally's Hotel-Casino on the Las Vegas Strip on Monday, Oct. 21, 2013. Las Vegas police said a man opened fire about 5:45 a.m. in the casino at 3645 Las Vegas Boulevard South, near Flamingo Road, after he was refused entrance to Drai's After Hours nightclub. The shooting left one dead and two others injured. (AP Photo/Mike Blasky)

New team to probe teen sex assault case

BILL DRAPER
Associated Press
KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP)

— An area prosecutor was appointed Monday to re-investigate allegations by a 14-year-old girl who said she was sexually assaulted by an older classmate who plied her with alcohol in their rural Missouri town. The case attracted international attention when the girl and her mother went public, saying the county prosecutor didn't do enough before dropping charges against the boys

they said were involved. Local prosecutors maintain that the family stopped cooperating — which the family disputes — but asked for a special prosecutor to take over the case. A Nordaway County judge chose Jackson County prosecutor Jean Peters Baker to take on that role, the local county court clerk confirmed. Baker recently prosecuted a high-profile case against a Catholic bishop accused of failing to report child abuse. Melinda Coleman claims

her daughter was given alcohol in January 2012 by a 17-year-old Maryville High School student who then sexually assaulted her daughter at his home when she became incapacitated. She has said her daughter sneaked out the night of the alleged assault. Her daughter, Daisy, said another 17-year-old videotaped the attack with a cellphone, and that her 13-year-old friend who went with her that night was raped by a 15-year-old boy. □

Q&A ON THE NEWS

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Q: Recently, a woman in Washington led police on a car chase near the Capitol. It was reported that she was unarmed. Why was it necessary for police to shoot and kill her as opposed to shooting out her tires?

-- **Scott Pirnie, Atlanta**

A: Law enforcement authorities have had few comments about the shooting death of Miriam Carey that ended a car chase near the U.S. Capitol on Oct. 3. Carey, who was driving a 2010 Nissan Infiniti, refused to stop at a checkpoint near the White House and knocked over an officer before driving toward the Capitol. Terrance Gainer, the U.S. Senate's sergeant at arms who also has served as the chief of the Capitol Police, told the Post: "The thing that's distinctive about this is it was not your typical traffic violation. ... We operate in an environment under the constant threat of attack from suicide bombers and improvised explosive devices."

Q: Do American taxpayers fund an Arabic-language news organization named Alhurra TV? If so, why? Do taxpayers fund any other foreign language TV news organizations?

-- **Sarah Jackson, Big Canoe, Ga.**

A: The Broadcasting Board of Governors, a U.S. government agency, funds Alhurra TV, which broadcasts to the Middle East. Alhurra TV gained prominence recently when its cameras recorded a car chase that started near the White House and ended near the U.S. Capitol. The Arabic-language network has been mostly unknown to people in the U.S. because it's not available in this country, except through its website (Alhurra.com).

Q: From whom and when did the familiar postal service slogan originate?

-- **Lance DeLoach, Thomaston, Ga.**

A: The U.S. Post Office doesn't have an official motto, according to its website. The phrase "Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds" is attached to the USPS because it's inscribed on the façade of the James A. Farley Post Office building in New York. Greek historian Herodotus originally wrote that phrase to describe the swiftness of Persian messengers during wars with Greece around 480-490 B.C.

Q: I stop everything to watch the Swiffer commercials featuring the endearing old couple, Lee and Morty. Are they married in real life? Were they actors before this commercial gig? They are so sweet.

-- **Phyllis Rich Carpenter, Dallas, Ga.**

A: Morty Kaufman is a 91-year-old retired pharmacist and his wife, Lee, is a 90-year-old retired teacher. They have been married 44 years, marrying one another after their previous spouses died. They live in the Long Island town of Valley Stream, N.Y., and have six children and five grandchildren. The Kaufmans are active in their community, but neither of them had acted professionally before their Swiffer commercials. One of their daughters knows a director who was looking for a mature couple and she told the director about her parents. "And so we began a new career at the age of 90," Lee told The Huffington Post. "Morty worked for 40 years and has been retired for 30 and now, all of a sudden, we're doing something completely new." □

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US Financial Front: American existing-home sales drop 1.9%

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Americans bought fewer existing homes in September than the previous month, held back by higher mortgage rates and rising prices.

The National Association of Realtors said Monday that sales of re-sold homes fell 1.9 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.29 million. That's down from a pace of 5.39 million in August, which was revised lower.

The sales pace in August equaled July's pace. Both were the highest in four years and are consistent with a healthy market.

Mortgage rates rose sharply over the summer from their historic lows, threatening to slow a housing recovery that began last year and has helped drive modest economic growth. But many economists expect home sales will remain healthy, especially now that rates have stabilized and remain near

historically low levels. Final sales in September reflected contracts signed in July and August, when rates were about a percentage point higher than in May.

The average rate on a 30-year fixed mortgage was 4.28 percent last week, down from a two-year high of 4.58 percent in August. That's also far below the 30-year average of 7 percent, according to Bankrate.com.

Sales of existing homes have risen at a healthy 10.7 percent in the past 12 months. Still, that's the slowest year-over-year increase in five months.

And the median home price has risen 11.7 percent in the past year, the Realtors said. That's also the slowest annual gain in the past five months.

Price increases may be slowing because more homes are finally coming on the market. The supply of available homes rose 1.8 percent from a year ago to 2.21 million, the first year-over-year increase in 2 1/2

years. The limited number of homes for sale is a key reason prices have risen so fast in the last year.

The economy is growing modestly and employers are adding jobs at a slow but steady pace. That's helped a growing number of Americans buy homes. Still, many first-time buyers have been unable to enter the market. They made up just 28 percent of purchases in September, down from 32 percent a year ago. In healthier housing markets, they typically make up at least 40 percent of buyers.

First-time buyers are having trouble qualifying for loans because many banks have adopted tougher lending restrictions and higher down payment requirements since the housing bubble burst.

In their place, investors and Americans willing to pay cash are playing an outsize role in sales. Cash purchases made up 33 percent of September's sales, up from 28 percent a year ago. □



A "For Sale" sign hangs in front of a house in Walpole, Mass. Americans bought fewer existing homes in September than the previous month, held back by higher mortgage rates and rising prices, the National Association of Realtors said Monday, Oct. 21, 2013.

(AP Photo/Steven Senne)

Survey says U.S. economists upbeat on economic growth

The Associated Press

Despite uncertainty in Washington and rising oil prices and interest rates, U.S. companies are upbeat on the prospects for economic growth in the next year, according to a quarterly survey of business economists.

But economists surveyed by the National Association for Business Economics weren't as optimistic about hiring, according to the survey released Monday. Only 27 percent reported rising employment at their firms from July through September, down from 29 percent in the second quarter. And 37 percent expected their companies to expand payrolls in the next six months, down from 39 percent in the second quarter.

The slower hiring occurred even as sales and profit margins grew during the third quarter, according to the survey.

Still, optimism about future economic growth remained strong last quarter. Almost 70 percent of the economists in the survey predicted gross domestic product growth of 2-to-3 percent, with another 19 percent expecting growth of 1-to-2 percent. The figures are nearly identical to those from the second-quarter survey, released in July. The U.S. economy grew at a 2.5 percent annual rate from April through June, an improvement from the first three months of the year. But many economists worry that the growth rate may be slowing.

The NABE surveyed 60 of its member economists between Sept. 16 and Oct. 1, with most of the survey finished prior to the partial government shutdown that began Oct. 1. The economists work for companies from a variety of industries, including manufacturing, transportation and utilities, finance, retail and other services.

Among the findings:

— Sales growth accelerated in the third quarter. Forty-two percent of the economists reported rising sales at their companies, up from 35 percent in July. Only 12 percent reported falling sales, down from 15 percent in July.

— Profit margins also rebounded. One-third of the economists said margins were up at their firms, up from 21 percent in July and the highest percentage in more than a year. Those reporting falling profit margins fell to 19 percent, down from 25 percent in the second quarter.

— Only 16 percent of economists said their firms were raising wages and salaries, down from 19 percent in July and 31 percent in April.

— Most economists, 81 percent, said the Affordable Care Act, President Barack Obama's health care law, had no impact on employment during the past three months. But a "sizeable minority," 18 percent, reported a negative impact. And 22 percent expected a negative impact on employment in the next year, compared with only 2 percent expecting a positive impact. The responses also suggested a small shift toward more part-time and fewer full-time employees, according to the survey.

— Most economists, 80 percent, reported no impact on their businesses in the third quarter from rising long-term interest rates, according to the survey.

But a quarter of the economists expect rising interest rates and increasing oil prices to drag on sales during the next 12 months. □

Greenspan mulls roots of crisis he didn't foresee

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — For 18½ years as Federal Reserve chairman, he was rhapsodized for helping drive a robust U.S. economy. Yet in the years after he stepped down in 2006, he was engulfed by accusations that he helped cause the 2008 financial crisis — the worst since the 1930's. Now, Alan Greenspan has struck back at any notion that he — or anyone — could have known how or when to defuse the threats

the NBC News anchor and chief foreign affairs correspondent.

Surrounded by books of presidential and financial history, Greenspan acknowledged some errors of judgment as Fed chair. But he said he saw no reason to downgrade his own assessment of his tenure.

"Our record was fairly good," he said.

He expressed relief at having finally ended an intense 18 months of work on his book.

Greenspan offers high

ers, Greenspan remembers a different Washington.

He recalls it as a time when political leaders dared to trust their opponents and collaborated to reach common goals.

It didn't hurt, Greenspan said, that the Democratic speaker of the House, Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, would drop by the West Wing of the White House some nights "and have a bourbon with Jerry."

Here are some excerpts of the Alan Greenspan interview, edited for length and

ally shocked. Contagion is the critical phenomenon which causes the thing to fall apart.

Q: When you published your last book, "Age of Turbulence," in 2007, you were being hailed as a "maestro" of the global economy. Then the worst financial crisis since the 1930s erupted. Your policies as Fed chair were blamed for sowing the seeds for that crisis. How did the criticism affect you personally?

A: I've been around long

wants done, and it specifies how individual regulators are going to solve the problems. Regulators are now required to do vastly more and to square it with other agencies.

Q: Any books you would recommend?

A: "The Battle of Bretton Woods" (Benn Steil's history of the 1944 conference in New Hampshire) is a book I read recently, which is excellent. What those three books have in common is they provide a type of



This photo taken Oct. 18, 2013 shows economist Alan Greenspan in his office in Washington. Greenspan, now 87, work as a private consultant. The former chief of America's monetary policy, now 87, writes about the difficulty of predicting economic problems in his new book: "The Map and the Territory: Risk, Human Nature, and the Future of Forecasting."

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

that triggered the crisis. He argues in a new book, "The Map and the Territory," that traditional economic forecasting is no match for the irrational risk-taking that can inflate catastrophic price bubbles in assets like homes or tech stocks.

In an interview Sunday with The Associated Press, Greenspan reflected on his book, his Fed tenure and the risks that still endanger the financial system. Relaxed and looking fit at 87, he spoke for an hour in the sunroom of his house overlooking a wooded hillside of Northwest Washington. It's a home he shares with his wife, Andrea Mitchell,

praise for Janet Yellen, President Barack Obama's choice to lead the Fed starting in January. As a member of the Fed's board in Washington, Greenspan recalled, Yellen sometimes helped him better grasp "what this academic is saying."

He says he still plays tennis regularly — singles as well as doubles. And he seems as much a man of the 21st century as he is of the 20th: In search of his iPhone, he twice asked a staffer where it might be.

Reaching back nostalgically to the Republican administration of Gerald Ford, when he led the president's Council of Economic Advis-

clarity by the Associated Press:

Q: You write that you were shaken by the 2008 financial crisis because of the failure of one of the pillars of a stable financial market — "rational financial risk management." What did you discover in your research for the book about this issue?

A: Fear and euphoria are dominant forces, and fear is many multiples the size of euphoria. Bubbles go up very slowly as euphoria builds.

Then fear hits, and it comes down very sharply. When I started to look at that, I was sort of intellectu-

enough to know that a good deal of the praise heaped on me I had nothing to do with. The only thing I did object to was the fact that where the criticism was actually wrong. Did it bother me? Of course it bothered me. But I've been around long enough to have ups and down. So you get over it.

Q: You're not a big fan of the Dodd-Frank Act (the 2010 financial regulation law that aims to prevent another crisis). Why not?

A: It was written politically, in a way that the regulators get the responsibility to solve the problem. There is a whole list of things the act

detail which I was never aware of. I know a great deal about history, but I was quite surprised.

Q: You're famous for your love of delving into the minute detail of economic statistics to help track the economy. One of your favorite statistics has been railroad boxcar loadings of autos and other manufactured goods. Are you still following that type of information?

A: Let me put it this way: When (the government) stopped publishing data a couple of weeks ago, one thing I had to tell what was going on with the economy was car loadings. □

Syria: Assad casts doubt on peace conference

**BASSEM MROUE
RYAN LUCAS
Associated Press**

BEIRUT (AP) — Syria's president said Monday that the factors needed for a proposed peace conference to end the country's conflict to succeed do not yet exist, raising doubts about renewed international efforts to bring the opposing sides in the civil war to the negotiating table.

The United States and Russia have been trying for months to convene an international conference in Geneva to negotiate a political solution to Syria's intractable civil war, which has killed more than 100,000 people and forced 2 million more to flee the country. The U.N. chief has set mid-November as a target

for the proposed gathering, although no final date has been announced.

But Bashar Assad brushed aside the renewed efforts to coax the government and the opposition into taking part in a peace conference, telling Lebanon's Al-Mayadeen TV in an interview that "the factors that would help in holding it are not in place if we want it to succeed."

He said it's not clear who would represent the opposition, or what credibility they would have inside Syria. "Who are the groups that will participate? What is their relation with the Syrian people? Do they represent the Syrian people or they represent the country that made them?" Assad asked. "There are many

questions about the conference."

For its part, Syria's fractured opposition has yet to decide whether to attend the proposed Geneva conference.

The main Western-backed opposition umbrella group, the Syrian National Coalition, is scheduled to meet Nov. 1-2 in Istanbul to decide whether to take part in the talks.

One of the most prominent factions within the Coalition, the Syrian National Council, has said it has no faith in negotiations with Assad's regime and won't be part of Geneva.

But the Coalition's ability to speak for the broader rebellion has long been in dispute, and fighters inside Syria — many of whom reject negotiations with the regime — have accused the opposition leaders in exile of being out of touch with reality on the ground. The Coalition's credibility, already strained, took a major hit last month when nearly a dozen prominent rebel groups publicly broke



President Bashar Assad gestures as he speaks during an interview with Lebanon's Al-Mayadeen TV, at the presidential palace in Damascus, Syria, Monday, Oct. 21, 2013. Syria's president said Monday that the factors that would allow a landmark conference aimed at ending the country's civil war do not yet exist, throwing further doubt on international efforts to hold peace talks that have already been repeatedly delayed.

(AP Photo/SANA)

Europe asking Russia to let nations seek closer EU ties

**RAF CASERT
Associated Press**

LUXEMBOURG (AP) — European Union foreign ministers told Russia on Monday to stop using trade measures and threats to punish East European nations that are seeking closer ties with the bloc.

The 28 EU countries hope to agree on closer cooperation deals with Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia at a Nov. 28-29 summit. But Moscow is urging those nations to align themselves closer with Russia instead, and it is using pressure to back up its demand.

The EU has extensive experience with remaining united in the face of pressure from the outside world, said Dutch Foreign Minister Frans Timmermans. "And no amount of pressure can make us crumble."

"The EU is united in its wish to strengthen relations with Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia," Timmermans said.

To help those nations make that decision, Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt and Polish Prime Minister Radoslaw Sikorski left Monday's ministerial meeting in Luxembourg for a whirlwind tour of the three countries to promote closer alignment.

"There might be things that we can do to help the nations that are under pressure from" Russia," Bildt said, and he warned Moscow that any more pressure would be counterproductive.

Russia has told Ukraine that a gas price cut would only be possible if the nation doesn't sign an EU association agreement. □

with the opposition umbrella group. More rebel brigades have since followed suit. □

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Super smog hits north China city; flights canceled

LOUISE WATT

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Visibility shrank to less than half a football field and small-particle pollution soared to a record 40 times higher than an international safety standard in one northern Chinese city as the region entered its high-smog season.

The manager for U.S. jazz singer Patti Austin, meanwhile, said the singer had canceled a concert in Beijing because of an asthma attack likely linked to pollution. Winter typically brings the worst air pollution to northern China because of a combination of weather conditions and an increase in the burning of coal for homes and municipal heating systems, which usually starts on a specific date. For the large northern city of Harbin, the city's heating systems kicked in on Sunday, and on Monday visibility there was less than 50 meters (yards), according to state media.

"I couldn't see anything outside the window of my apartment, and I thought it was snowing," Wu Kai, 33, a housewife and mother of a baby boy, said in a telephone interview from Harbin. "Then I realized it wasn't snow. I have not seen the sun for a long time." She said her husband went to work in a mask, that he could barely see a few meters (yards) ahead of him and that his usual bus had stopped running. "It's scary, too dangerous. How could people drive or walk on such a

day?"

The density of fine particulate matter, PM2.5, used as an indicator of air quality was well above 600 micrograms per cubic meter — including several readings of exactly 1,000 — for several monitoring stations in Harbin, according to figures posted on the website of China's environmental protection agency. They were the first known readings of 1,000 since China began releasing figures

40 flights to destinations in southern China and Beijing among others were canceled or postponed at Harbin's Taiping International Airport on Monday morning.

Austin's management team said the 63-year-old singer had been treated in a hospital Friday morning for an asthma attack in combination with a respiratory infection. She returned to her hotel later Friday to rest, but was unable

the Chinese government can be a leader in this very important issue."

On the morning ahead of her concert Friday, Beijing's air was visibly polluted, with the city's environmental monitoring center warning children, the elderly and those with respiratory illnesses to reduce outdoor activity.

China's major cities have some of the world's worst smog. The government was long indifferent to the



A woman wearing a mask walk through a street covered by dense smog in Harbin, northern China, Monday, Oct. 21, 2013.
(AP Photo/Kyodo News)

on PM2.5 in January 2012, and it was not immediately clear if the devices used for monitoring could give readings higher than that. A safe level under WHO guidelines is 25 micrograms per cubic meter.

Primary and middle schools and some highways were closed, said authorities in the city, which is in China's northernmost province bordering Russia. At least

to perform at her Beijing concert scheduled for Friday evening. Her Saturday night concert in Shanghai went ahead.

Her manager, Barry Orms, said Monday that Austin, as an asthma sufferer, would have been "affected by the amount of pollution." He said that it wasn't their goal to place blame, and that "Patti has expressed our belief that

environment as it pursued economic development, but has begun launching some anti-pollution initiatives after mounting public frustration.

Last month, China's Cabinet released an action plan that aims to make a small reduction in the country's heavy reliance on coal to below 65 percent of total energy usage by 2017. □

Uruguay official says sell legal pot for \$1 per gram

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay

(AP) — Uruguay's drug czar says the country plans to sell legal marijuana for \$1 per gram to combat drug-trafficking, according to a local newspaper.

The plan to create a government-run legal marijuana industry has passed the lower house of Congress, and President Jose Mujica expects to push it through the Senate soon as part of his effort to explore alternatives in the war on drugs. The measure would make Uruguay the first country in the world to license and enforce rules for the production, distribution and sale of marijuana for adult consumers.

Marijuana sales should start in the second half of 2014 at a price of about \$1 per gram, drug chief Julio Calzada told a local newspaper, El Pais, on Sunday. That's an eighth or less of what marijuana costs at legal medical dispensaries in some U.S. states. Calzada said one gram will be enough, "for one marijuana cigarette or two or three slimmer cigarettes."

He said the idea is not to make money, but to fight petty crime and wrench the market away from illegal dealers. "The illegal market is very risky and of poor quality," he said. The State "is going to offer a safe place to buy a quality product and on top of that, it's going to sell it at the same price."

In August, he had estimated that the price would be around \$2.50 per gram.

Sales would be restricted to locals, who would be able to buy up to 40 grams per month. Smoking pot has long been legal in Uruguay, but growing, carrying, buying or selling it has called for prison terms. About 120,000 people consume marijuana at least once a year in this land of 3.3 million, according to the National Drug Council. Out of these, 75,000 smoke it every week and 20,000 every day. In the U.S., the states of Washington and Colorado have legalized marijuana and adopted rules governing its sale. □

Dutch want tribunal to make Russia free protesters

MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands
(AP) — The Netherlands

asked an international tribunal Monday to order Russia to release a Greenpeace protest ship and the activists who were on board.

Dutch Foreign Minister Frans Timmermans said the government made the request to the Hamburg, Germany-based International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

A group of 28 Greenpeace activists and two journalists have been held since their ship, the "Arctic Sunrise" was seized by the Russian coast guard after a protest near a Gazprom-owned oil rig on Sept. 18.

The activists are being held in the northern Russian city of Murmansk. They have been charged with piracy, an offense that carries a 15-year sentence in Russia. Timmermans said the request was a procedural step in an arbitration case

the Dutch launched two weeks ago seeking to free the activists and their ship, which sails under the Dutch flag.

He told reporters in Luxembourg "it will come as no surprise to the Russian Federation" that the Dutch have now asked for the tribunal to order the release pending a final decision in the case.

Timmermans said it would likely take about a month for the tribunal to reach a decision on the request.

In a statement, Greenpeace International welcomed the Dutch initiative and called on other governments whose nationals are among the detained activists "to step up their work to ensure the immediate release of the detainees."

The tribunal the Dutch are turning to adjudicates in disputes arising from interpretation and application of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. □

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Suicide bomber strikes Russian bus, killing 6

Associated Press
MOSCOW (AP) — A female suicide bomber blew herself up on a city bus in southern Russia on Monday, killing six people and injuring about 30, officials said. The attack in Volgograd added to security fears ahead of the Winter Olympics in Sochi.

The suspected bomber was from the North Caucasus, a region in southern Russia where an Islamic insurgency has been simmering for more than a decade following two separatist wars in Chechnya. A local official

said the suspected attacker was married to an Islamic militant.

Volgograd lies 650 kilometers (400 miles) to the north-east of the North Caucasus, while Sochi sits to the west along the Black Sea. No one immediately claimed responsibility for Monday's suicide bombing, but it was the first outside the North Caucasus since Chechen rebel leader Doku Umarov three months ago called for a resumption of attacks on civilians and urged militants to target the Sochi

Games, which are to be held in February. Russia in past years has seen a series of terror attacks on buses, airplanes and other forms

of transportation, some of them carried out by suicide bombers. The last suicide attack on a bus was in 2008. Twin bombings on the

Moscow subway in March 2010 carried out by female suicide bombers killed 40 people and wounded more than 120.



A damaged bus is examined by experts in Volgograd, Monday, Oct. 21, 2013. The blast was caused by "an unspecified explosive device," the National Anti-Terrorism Committee said in a statement. A total of 40 people were on the city bus at the time of the explosion, the Emergency Situations Ministry said. At least five died and some people were injured. (AP Photo/ Sergei Ivanishin)

Philippines: Communist rebels kill 9 troops

KIDAPAWAN, Philippines (AP) — Communist rebels attacked Philippine troops twice with roadside bombs and gunfire on Monday, killing nine soldiers and militiamen and wounding five others in the country's south, officials said. About 50 New People's Army guerrillas detonated a buried explosive and then opened fire on an army truck, killing eight soldiers and militiamen and wounding one soldier in a mountainous region in Tulunan town in North Cotabato province, regional army spokesman Lt. Nasrullah Sema said. The soldiers were on their way to deliver cash allowances to militiamen at a rural outpost. About an hour later, another truckload of soldiers that was deployed to hunt down the rebels was struck by a bomb and fired upon

by guerrillas in North Cotabato's Makilala town, killing a soldier and wounding four others, Sema said.

Troops were hunting the guerrillas, who withdrew toward a wooded area, he said.

The military condemned the rebel use of buried explosives, saying they also endanger civilians.

Battle setbacks, factionalism and surrenders have reduced the number of armed communist guerrillas to about 4,000 from a peak of about 25,000 in the mid-1980s, but they remain a major national security threat.

Talks brokered by Norway on ending the 44-year rebellion, one of Asia's longest, collapsed several years ago due to disagreement over a rebel demand for the release of jailed comrades.

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Britain commits to nuclear power despite Fukushima

DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain has struck an agreement to build a new nuclear power plant — the first such deal in the European Union since the disaster at Fukushima prompted a major rethink of the energy source's merits. The contract underscores how few options major European economies have if they want to keep households' energy costs from spiking. The 1.6-billion pound (\$25.9 billion) project, which was agreed on Monday with France's EDF energy and a group of Chinese investors, aims to keep the lights on in Britain amid declining supplies of North Sea gas and rapidly escalating fuel costs. "If people at home want

to be able to keep watching the television, be able to turn the kettle on, and benefit from electricity, we have got to make these investments," Energy Secretary Ed Davey told the BBC. "It is essential to keep the lights on and to power British business." Germany led the charge against nuclear energy two years ago following the shock of the meltdown at Fukushima, Japan in 2011. The government decided to shut down all of the country's nuclear power plants by 2022 and to make up for the output gap with renewable energy. But the effort is proving to be costlier than expected for taxpayers. Not only do many new wind, solar, water and biomass plants need to

be built, but Germany's energy grid has to be overhauled to balance the fluctuating supply such power sources provide. Consumers are also footing the bill for state subsidies that are granted to renewable energy producers and meant to encourage the sector's growth. The deal in Britain, the first of its kind in a generation, shows Germany's example is not winning over many emulators just yet. The new reactor — which will be built at Hinkley Point in southwest England and will start working in 2023, subject upon EU approval — will guarantee power. However, while it will help keep the country's carbon footprint from increasing, it may not keep electricity prices down.

Under the terms of the deal, the British government has promised to pay the investors who will build the reactor a price of electricity for 35 years of as much as 92.5 pounds per megawatt hour, plus inflationary increases. Experts like said Antony Froggatt, a senior research fellow at Chatham House, say that's double the current market rate — and more than that produced by gas and coal fired power stations. The deal is a boon to China, which relies on foreign technology for its generating stations and is developing its own reactors. "China is wishing to become a global leader within the nuclear sector," Froggatt said. China General Nuclear Corp. and China National

Nuclear Corp. are majority-owned by the government in Beijing. They will provide 30 percent to 40 percent of the money to build the reactor. The technical expertise will mainly come from French companies, in particular EDF, which is controlled by the French government and will provide 45 percent to 50 percent of financing. But Chinese engineers will gain experience and learn about navigating a complex licensing process. The ability to partner with existing players will also help China gain a foothold in foreign markets — a showcase opportunity to eventually export its own work. "That opens doors," Froggatt said.

Brazil oil block goes to Shell, Total, China firms

BRADLEY BROOKS
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazil's government says that a consortium including petroleum companies Shell, Total, two Chinese firms and Petrobras has won the auction to develop a massive offshore oil block. It's the first oil auction held under Brazil's new rules that give more power to state-run Petrobras. The Brazilian firm will be the sole operator and owns a 40 percent stake of the Libra oil field. It could hold upward of 12 billion barrels. Both Shell and Total will own 20 percent, while Chinese companies CNOOC and CNPC each took 10 percent. Under the new rules for offshore auctions, Petrobras is the sole operator of fields and must hold a minimum 30



Protesters hold signs of President Barack Obama that read in Portuguese "Auction is privatization!" as they demonstrate against the auction of the Libra offshore oil field near the Windsor hotel where the auction is taking place, on Barra da Tijuca beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Monday, Oct. 21, 2013. (AP Photo/Felipe Dana)

percent stake in them. Critics say that's scared off private oil companies

and will slow the development of the offshore finds, which could hold

upward of 100 billion barrels. Just 11 firms took part in Monday's bidding pro-

cess, fewer than the 40 the Brazilian government hoped to attract.



Divi Resorts celebrates their Excellence Awards in style!



EAGLE BEACH - The Human Resources Department organized their terrific Excellence Awards, Mexican Edition, for their hardworking employees. During this wonderful afternoon we did the employee recognitions for Employee and Supervisor of the Third Quarter and also honored the employees celebrating their different anniversaries with the different companies of the Divi Resorts: Divi

& Tamarijn Aruba Beach Resort, Divi/Dutch Village and Divi Golf Aruba. The winner for Employee of the Third Quarter for Divi/Dutch Village was: Fray Tejeda from the Front Desk Department. The winner for the Supervisor of the Third Quarter for Divi/Dutch Village was: Patricia Jacobs from the Housekeeping Department. The winner for Employee

of the Third Quarter for Divi Golf was: Julian Heredia from the Landscaping Department. The winner for Employee of the Third Quarter for Divi & Tamarijn was: Jorell de Cuba from the Ginger & Fusion Restaurant. The winner for Supervisor of the Third Quarter for Divi & Tamarijn was: Danidia Manrique from the Pool Department. Celebrating their 5th, 10th,

15th, 20th, 25th and 30th anniversaries were the following employees: Marcelino Solognier from Kitchen Divi (5), Ritha Saintine from Kitchen Divi (5), Carissa Holsman from Front Office Divi (5), Jorge Palomino from Pool Divi (5), Ann Marie Lake from Housekeeping Divi Village (5), Reynante Olivar from Bar Golf (5), William Vicente Ore from Landscaping Divi (10), Juan Carlos Piña

from F&B Divi (10), Clotilde Nelson from Kitchen Tamarijn (10), George Chehin from F&B Divi Village (10), Maria Santana from F&B Divi (15), Martha Leonard from Accounting Divi Village (20), Carol Jansen from Divi Village (20), Maria Maduro from Housekeeping Divi (20), Beatriz Diosa from Laundry Tamarijn (20), Johnny Biezen from Engineering Dutch Village (25) y Violet Thompson from Housekeeping Dutch Village (30). The Mariachi Perla di Aruba gave a wonderful performance at the end of the awards ceremony as a gratitude and appreciation for the employee's hard work. Congratulations to all the employees who were nominated and who won and also to the employees celebrating their different anniversaries, god job and keep it up! □

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This weekend, October 25 & 26:

Aruba's famous Battle of the Food Trucks Returns!



PALM BEACH - On October 25 and 26, the island's top food trucks will once again be serving up their favorite dishes and duking it out for the title of Best Food Truck on the Island, during the 2nd annual Battle of the Food Trucks, on the parking lot in front of Trop Club & Casino.

This year, Trop Club & Casino has teamed up with Presidente Beer and Coca

Cola to bring back the two-night mega event, which attracted huge crowds last year. Last year's winner, Tia Rosa, will be defending her title of Food Truck Champ against competitors including Piet Super Snack Truck, the Hollywood Smokehouse, Gio JJ Burger, Ricuras, Chalo Burger, Il Buongusto, Candela Grill, Cocolishi Street Food, and many more. Aside from the

prestigious title, over 5,000 Florins in prize money will be up for grabs. A panel of three local and international celebrities will be in charge of picking the ultimate winners. To get everyone hyped up, some of the island's best musical bands will also be performing. Bands including Youth Extreme, Rincon Boyz, Ezequiel Anthony and Esquema, Le Groove, Upgrade Music, Sonic Lab, Claudius

Philips and his band OREO, and Honey Pot will have everyone swaying their hips and dancing along, as they sample the offerings from the competing food trucks.

In between supporting your favorite food truck, don't forget to check out the domino tournament and the Harley Davidson show. An entire area of the event will be dedicated to entertaining the little ones, with

a bouncy castle, popcorn, cotton candy, ice cream, shaved ice and much more. Kids are encouraged to come dressed up in costumes on the 26th, so that they can go Trick or Treating at the event, and win prizes for the Halloween best costumes. There will also be prizes for the adults with the best Halloween costumes.

The Battle of the Food Trucks will take place on Friday, October 25, from 6pm to 11pm, and on Saturday, October 26, from 6pm to 1am. All funds raised will go to the Koningin Wilhelmina Cancer Fund, which has been raising awareness and helping cancer patients and their families for over 50 years.

If last year's battle was any indication, this year's Battle of the Food Trucks once again promises to be a showdown of epic and tasty proportions! □



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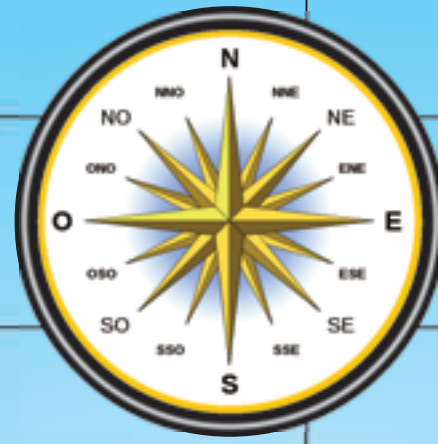
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Bradford, Cutler and Foles all lost to injury

The Associated Press

It was a tough day for quarterbacks on Sunday in the NFL. St. Louis' Sam Bradford, Chicago's Jay Cutler and Philadelphia's Nick Foles all left with injuries. But it wasn't just the quarterbacks who got hurt. Green Bay tight end Jermichael Finley, Tampa Bay running back Doug Martin, Denver cornerback Champ Bailey and Indianapolis wide receiver Reggie Wayne also went down.

Bradford was hurt in the fourth quarter of the 30-15 loss to Carolina when he landed on his left knee after being shoved out of bounds by Panthers safety Mike Mitchell. The team offered no update on the extent of the injury and Bradford was not made available for comment.

He was to accompany the team on the flight back to St. Louis late Sunday afternoon.



Chicago Bears quarterback Jay Cutler lies on the field after being injured in a sack by Washington Redskins defensive end Chris Baker during the first half of a NFL football game in Landover, Md., Sunday, Oct. 20, 2013.

Continued on Page 21

Associated Press



In this Dec. 2, 2012 file photo, Tennessee Titans owner K.S. "Bud" Adams Jr., talks with people on the sideline before an NFL football game between the Titans and the Houston Texans in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

TERESA M. WALKER
AP Sports Writer

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — Tennessee Titans owner Bud Adams, who helped found the American Football League and whose

battles for players helped lead to the merger with the NFL, has died. He was 90. The team announced Monday that Adams had "passed away peacefully from natural causes."

Titans owner Bud Adams has died at age 90

The son of a prominent oil executive, Adams built his own energy fortune and founded the Houston Oilers. He moved the team to Tennessee in 1997 when he couldn't get the new stadium he wanted in Houston. The franchise, renamed the Titans, in 2000 reached the Super Bowl that Adams had spent more than three decades pursuing. Coach Mike Munchak said Adams was willing to spend money to help his team win, remembering how he ordered the Titans to chase free agent Peyton Manning in March 2012. The Titans also spent more than \$100 million this offseason

on players, and Munchak said their challenge now will be winning the Super Bowl in his memory — the one item missing from Adams' legacy. "That'll be our challenge going forward," Munchak said. Funeral plans have yet to be announced. Munchak said the Titans will decide later how to remember their founder. Adams' 409 wins were the most of any current NFL owner. He notched his 400th career win in the 2011 season finale when his Titans defeated the team that replaced his Oilers in Houston, the Texans. His franchise made 21 playoff

appearances in 53 seasons, eighth among NFL teams since 1960. "I consider Bud one of the founders of the game of professional football because of his role in helping to create the American Football League," Dallas owner Jerry Jones said. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell described Adams as a pioneer and innovator. "As a founding owner of the American Football League that began play in 1960, Bud saw the potential of pro football and brought the game to new cities and new heights of popularity, first in Houston and then in Nashville," Goodell said. □



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Anaheim Ducks right wing Emerson Etem, left, scores on Dallas Stars goalie Jack Campbell during the second period of their NHL hockey game, Sunday, Oct. 20, 2013, in Anaheim, Calif.
Associated Press

The Associated Press
ANAHEIM, California
(AP) — Emerson Etem got his first career short-handed goal late in the second period after Corey Perry scored twice to level the game, helping the Anaheim Ducks extend the best start in the club's history with a 6-3 victory over the Dallas Stars on Sunday. The defending Pacific Division champions have won seven straight following a 6-1 loss at Colorado on opening night, equaling the longest streak in club history. Anaheim captain Ryan Getzlaf had a goal and three assists, and 43-year-old Teemu Selanne extended his goal streak to three games. Ryan Garbutt, Brenden Dillon and Shawn Horcoff scored during the final 10 minutes of the first period for Dallas. Jack Campbell made 41 saves in his NHL debut. Anaheim goalie Frederik Andersen also made his NHL debut in net, replacing Jonas Hiller at the start of the second with a 3-1 deficit. Andersen stopped all 24 shots

he faced, two days after he was promoted from Norfolk of the AHL because of Viktor Fasth's lower-body injury. **BLUE JACKETS 3, CANUCKS 1**
COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — R.J. Umberger scored his first goal of the season with 8:46 left and Columbus ended a four-game losing streak with a victory over Vancouver. Curtis McElhinney, making his first appearance for the Blue Jackets in place of Vezina Trophy winner Sergei Bobrovsky, had 37 saves. Bobrovsky was given the night off. Marian Gaborik and Ryan Johansen also scored for the Blue Jackets, who won for the first time at home this season after losing their first two. Henrik Sedin had the goal for the Canucks. Eddie Lack stopped 26 shots in place of Roberto Luongo, rested on the second night of back-to-back games for Vancouver. Umberger and Johansen each had an assist. **PREDATORS 3, JETS 1**
WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) — Carter Hutton

NHL Capsules

Ducks beat Stars 6-3 for 7th straight win

made 37 saves for his first NHL win to lead Nashville past Winnipeg. Eric Nystrom, Patric Hornqvist and Matt Cullen scored for Nashville. The 27-year-old Hutton was given his second career start when Predators coach Barry Trotz chose to rest Pekka Rinne after the team's victory Saturday night in Montreal. Evander Kane had the

lone goal for Winnipeg. The Predators had only seven shots in the second period, but made three of them count as they took control of the game. The win extended Nashville's point streak to five games. Nystrom opened the scoring 20 seconds into the second period with a short-handed effort. □

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Cahill helps Red Bulls beat Dynamo 3-0

HOUSTON (AP) — Tim Cahill scored the fastest goal in Major League Soccer history to help the New York Red Bulls beat the Houston Dynamo 3-0 on Sunday to extend their unbeaten streak to seven games.

MLS Roundup

Cahill put New York ahead 8 seconds into the game, getting a pass from Dax McCarty and blasting in a shot from the edge of the box to improve the previous mark of 11 seconds, set by Dwayne de Rosario in 2003.

"It's a great feeling because how much the goal meant for us to settle down straight in the game," said Cahill, the veteran Australian midfielder. "We didn't have to chase the game, and after that, we just had to keep our position."

For me, it was a special goal. Definitely a special goal and something I won't forget."



Houston Dynamo defender Jermaine Taylor (4) fights for the ball against New York Red Bulls midfielder Tim Cahill (17) during an MLS soccer match on Sunday, Oct. 20, 2013, at BBVA Compass Stadium in Houston. New York won the game 3-0.

Associated Press

The Red Bulls moved into first place in the Eastern Conference with one game remaining in the regular season. Houston's five-game unbeaten streak was ended, leaving the Dynamo sixth

in the East with one game remaining. The top five teams in each conference make the playoffs.

New York extended the lead to 2-0 in the 65th minute from Ibrahim Sekagya's header and replacement Bradley Wright-Phillips closed out the scoring 10 minutes later.

"Disappointing afternoon, it's an obvious one," Houston coach Dominic Kinnear said.

"Even at 1-0, after that we had our chances to get back into the game and obviously some misplays led to them getting more goals. So we're disappointed,

we need to win and get a positive result next Sunday with a little bit of help from some friends around the league and then hopefully we can join the playoffs."

Los Angeles 0, San Jose 0
The Los Angeles Galaxy clinched a playoff berth with a 0-0 draw against the San Jose Earthquakes on Sunday night at Carson, California. □

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Injury

Continued from Page 18

Coach Jeff Fisher said Bradford "was in significant pain on the sideline."

Bradford had X-rays on the knee before leaving Charlotte. "It's a left knee and it's the knee with the brace on it," Fisher said. "We're going to get off the airplane and he'll go have an MRI, so we'll have some information on that later."

As for the injury, Fisher said: "I'm not going to speculate. I'm not going to deal with hypotheticals until I find out what's going on with him. It makes no sense to rush to any conclusion with him. Not until we know."

Cutler injured his groin when he was sacked in the second quarter of a 45-41 loss at Washington.

Asked how seriously Cutler was hurt, Bears coach Marc Trestman replied: "I don't have any sense at all. I'm just going to wait and see what the doctors say." Cutler is scheduled to have an MRI exam Monday. "He'll be evaluated when we get back and



Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Nick Foles kneels near the end zone after being injured during an NFL football game against the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday, Oct. 20, 2013, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

we'll know more in the next couple days," Trestman said. "It's a groin. It's not a knee. It's not an ankle. It's

not a hip."

The Bears also lost linebacker Lance Briggs (shoulder) and cornerback Charles

Tillman (knee) to injuries in the second half.

Foles suffered a head injury when he was sacked

by George Selvie and Jarius Wynn on the final play of the third quarter. He walked to the sideline on his own power and was evaluated by trainers. Foles walked to the locker room as the fourth quarter started.

There was no word on the extent of Foles' injury.

Green Bay lost another offensive threat when Finley was taken off the field on a stretcher in the fourth quarter following a late hit by Cleveland safety Tashaun Gipson. The Packers, who went on to a 31-13 victory, said he had a neck injury but had movement in his extremities. Martin was sidelined by a shoulder injury during Tampa Bay's 31-23 loss at Atlanta. He said he is "not sure yet" if he will play in Thursday night's game against Carolina. "Just have to hope for the best," he said.

Bailey left in the second quarter of Denver's 39-33 loss at Indy with a left foot injury, the same foot that kept him out of the first five games this season. Wayne departed in the fourth quarter with a sprained right knee. □

D Roman Hamrlik retires after 20 NHL seasons

TORONTO (AP) — Defense-man Roman Hamrlik has retired after a 20-year NHL career.

The three-time All-Star was drafted first overall by Tampa Bay in 1992. He played 1,395 games in the regular season and 113 in the playoffs with the Lightning, Oilers, Islanders, Flames, Canadiens, Capitals and Rangers. From Zlin, Czech Republic, Hamrlik had 155 goals and 483 assists for 638 points while averaging over 23 minutes in ice time.

"As a kid growing up in communist Czechoslovakia, I never imagined that I would one day have the opportunity to play in the National Hockey League," the 39-year-old Hamrlik said in an NHLPA statement Monday. "It has been a great honor and a privilege to spend 20 seasons playing in the greatest hockey

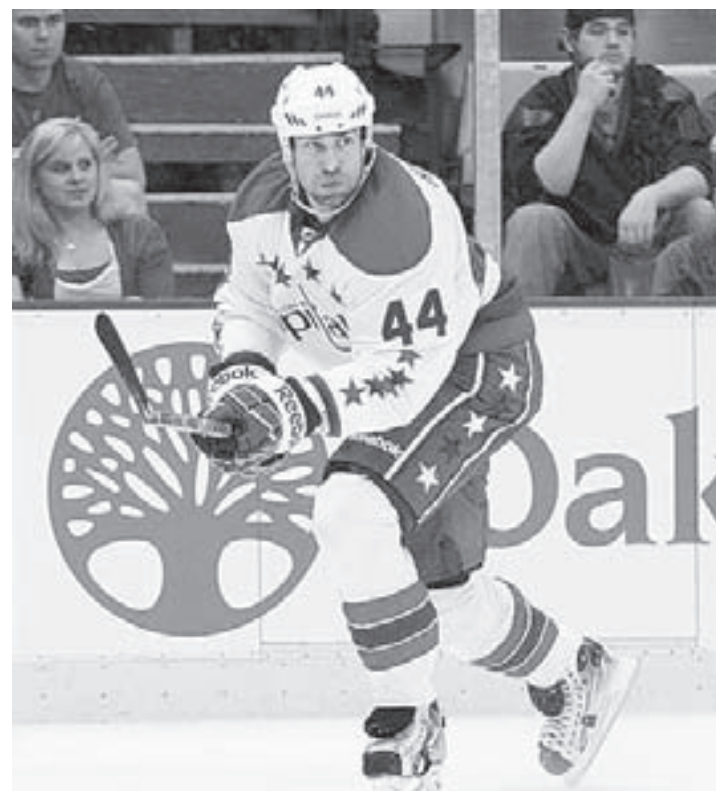
league in the world.

"I will always cherish the wonderful memories I have of my time spent in North America while playing the game I love, making sacrifices and pursuing my hockey dreams."

His best offensive season came in 1995-96, when he had 16 goals and 49 assists for the Lightning. □

In this March 19, 2012, file photo, Washington Capitals defenseman Roman Hamrlik, of the Czech Republic, waits for a pass during the first period of an NHL hockey game against the Detroit Red Wings in Detroit.

Associated Press



Tigers manager Jim Leyland stepping down

NOAH TRISTER

AP Baseball Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Jim Leyland is stepping down as manager of the Detroit Tigers after eight seasons that included three division titles and two trips to the World Series.

Leyland announced his departure Monday, two days after the Tigers were eliminated from the AL championship series by Boston in six games.

"I'm going to be 69 years old," he said. "I'm not ashamed of that. I'm proud of it. The fuel's getting a little low."

Leyland has been working under one-year contracts the last couple years, saying he was content to wait until after the season to address his status. He was a bit reflective late this season, mentioning to reporters that he had already managed the Tigers longer than he had expected they would keep him — but he also said in September that he still loved the atmosphere, the competition and his team.

Leyland was 700-597 with

the Tigers. He led them to the World Series immediately after taking over in 2006, losing to St. Louis in five games. The Tigers went to the World Series again in 2012 but were swept by San Francisco.

This year's team had a chance to make it back, but Detroit couldn't take advantage of its standout starting pitching against the Red Sox.

When Leyland arrived at the Tigers' training camp this year, it marked 50 seasons since he first showed up there as an 18-year-old prospect. His playing career never amounted to much, but his accomplishments as a manager over more than two decades have been impressive.

He is 1,769-1,728 overall during stints with the Tigers, Pittsburgh Pirates, Florida Marlins and Colorado Rockies. He won the World Series in 1997 with Florida.

He has also been part of some of baseball's most memorable games — Pittsburgh's loss in Game 7 of the 1992 NLCS in Atlanta, Florida's victory over



Detroit Tigers manager Jim Leyland waits for the start of Game 3 of the American League baseball championship series against the Boston Red Sox Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2013, in Detroit.

Associated Press

Cleveland in Game 7 of the 1997 World Series and Detroit's loss to Minnesota in a one-game playoff for the AL Central title in 2009. When he took over the Tigers, they had gone 12 years without a winning season. Under Leyland, they didn't finish under .500 a single time.

Detroit has become one of baseball's glamour teams of late, with stars like Miguel Cabrera, Justin Verlander and Max Scherzer helping the team win games and draw fans. The Tigers should be able to keep their core of players mostly together for next season, but now they'll need to find a new

manager to replace Leyland, who always earned high marks for his ability to keep his veteran team focused.

"I truly think this is going to be a very good team next year," Leyland said. "This job entails a lot more than people think." □



Switzerland's Roger Federer returns a shot during a match against France's Gael Monfils at the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament at the Qizhong Forest Sports City Tennis Center in Shanghai, China, Thursday, Oct. 10, 2013.

Associated Press

BASEL, Switzerland (AP) — Roger Federer eased to victory in the first round at his hometown Swiss Indoors event on Monday, beating Adrian Panatta of

France 6-4, 6-2.

Federer swept the final five games against the 60th-ranked Mannarino to win in 1 hour, 12 minutes.

Hampered by back injuries

in a difficult season, Federer has won only one title as his ranking has dropped to No. 7. He also has yet to secure a place in the eight-man lineup at the season-end-

Roger Federer opens Swiss Indoors event with victory

ing ATP World Tour finals in London next month.

A five-time champion at Basel, Federer is only seeded third this week and made just 51 percent of his first serves Monday. He needed 13 chances to break Mannarino's serve four times in the match.

The last time he played in Switzerland, Federer fell to a straight-set loss to 55th-ranked German Daniel Brands in his opening match at the Swiss Open in July. Federer said Sunday he is fitter and more confident now, and broke Mannarino's serve to begin the match. Still, he double-faulted to lose his second service game.

Settling into his rhythm, Federer broke again to lead

4-3 and converted his first set point with a forehand winner.

Mannarino, who lost to Federer in the third round of the U.S. Open, sent a two-handed backhand long to concede a 3-2 lead in the second set. Federer broke serve again by hitting another forehand winner and clinched the match with a serve that Mannarino could not return.

Earlier Monday, Lukasz Kubot of Poland beat Daniel Gimeno-Traver of Spain 7-5 (6), 6-2, and Tobias Kamke of Germany beat Victor Hanesescu of Romania 6-4, 6-4.

Alexandr Dolgoplov of Ukraine was playing Kenny de Schepper of France in the late match. □

Yahoo plucks influential tech writer from NY Times

SUNNYVALE, California (AP) — New York Times technology columnist and gadget reviewer David Pogue is leaving the newspaper to cover similar topics for Yahoo.

The hiring announced Monday is the latest step in Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer's effort to infuse the Internet company's website with more compelling content that will persuade people to visit more frequently and stick around longer. Mayer is hoping the increased traffic will substantially boost Yahoo's ad sales, although that has not yet happened during her first 15 months on the job.

Pogue built a loyal following reviewing devices and online services while delving into other technology issues during the past 13 years at the Times.

As he did at the Times, Pogue will write columns and produce videos at Yahoo. He also will oversee a planned expansion of Ya-

hoo's consumer technology coverage.

"I can't think of a better person to make technology more accessible and helpful for the hundreds of millions of people who come to Yahoo every day," Marissa wrote on Tumblr, an Internet blogging service that Yahoo Inc. acquired for \$1.1 billion four months ago.

In a post on his Tumblr account, Pogue said he will continue several other gigs that had been supplementing his work at the Times. Those other endeavors include appearances on the "CBS Sunday Morning" program, "NOVA" specials on the PBS network and a column for Scientific American magazine.

He also plans to keep writing his "Missing Manual" books about various technology products and services.

Pogue's multimedia blitz helped establish him among the world's most in-



In this undated photo provided by David Pogue via Yahoo, David Pogue poses for a photo. New York Times technology columnist and gadget reviewer Pogue is leaving the newspaper to cover similar topics for Yahoo.

Associated Press

fluent technology writers. A positive review from him could spur more sales of a device, drive more traffic to a website and generate more installations of applications for smartphones and tablets. His clout has helped him amass nearly 1.5 million followers on Twitter.

It took Pogue several months and several visits to

Yahoo's Sunnyvale, California, headquarters before he had heard and seen enough to lure him away from the Times, according to his Tumblr post.

"Yahoo is a company that's young, revitalized, aggressive and, under Marissa Mayer's leadership, razor-focused," Pogue said in a statement. "We all thrive on new experiences, and

as someone who loves to build cool new stuff, I'm excited to jump in head first."

He is the second prominent contributor that the Times has lost in the past three months. In July, statistical analysis guru Nate Silver cut his ties with the newspaper and moved his website to ESPN.

Another prominent technology reviewer, Walt Mossberg, is leaving The Wall Street Journal at the end of this year as part of the newspaper's breakup with AllThingsD, a popular website that he co-runs with Kara Swisher.

Newspapers in general have been losing some of their top talent to Internet companies and other media outlets as a steep drop in print advertising has prompted publishers to lay off workers, reduce salaries and impose other cutbacks aimed at offsetting a steady decline in revenue over the past seven years. □

Group makes 3-D backups of world landmarks

RAPHAEL SATTER
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — We all know to back up our files and photos, but what about our castles and churches?

A nonprofit named CyArk has created digital copies of more than 100 of the world's best-known monuments, mapping Roman ruins, ancient statues, and even an entire island.

Now it plans 400 more, with the goal of digitally preserving the world's most important sites against war, wear, and the impact of climate change.

"There is never going to be enough time or money to preserve everything," CyArk co-founder Barbara Kacyra said Monday at a launch event at the Tower of London.

"If you can't physically

save something, your next best thing is to digitally preserve it."

Oakland, California-based CyArk works by using 3-D laser scanners, radar, and a host of other technologies to create detailed maps of famous monuments — from Mayan pyramids in Chichen Itza to the Leaning Tower of Pisa — measuring nooks and nicks with millimeter precision.

Not only do the lasers capture minute damage invisible to most cameras, the 3-D data can be used to create hyper-realistic models and flyover programs used by tourists and educators.

Master copies of the measurements are kept by Iron Mountain Inc., which stores some 2 petabytes' worth of data on magnetic tape



In this photo provided by CyArk, on Monday, Oct. 21, 2013, an image generated by 3D laser scan data, shows a perspective of Chichen Itza, in Mexico.

Associated Press

in its secure underground archive at the bottom of a former limestone mine in Pennsylvania.

Kacyra said the project was born out of the heartbreak of seeing the Taliban pulverize the Afghan Buddha statues in 2001, but Gustavo Araoz, a senior preservationist who's help-

ing CyArk draw up a list of its next 400 sites, says similar destruction is playing out in slow motion across the globe.

"This happens every day at a smaller and much less dramatic scale," he said. There's already some evidence that the preservation project is paying

dividends. Ugandan diplomat Sam Muhwezi told The Associated Press that a 3-D model drawn up by CyArk was being used to help restore the country's fire-damaged royal tomb complex.

"It's the perfect example of why this kind of project is important," he said. □

S&P ekes out new record; street digests earnings

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Standard & Poor's 500 index eked out the smallest of gains to set a record high Monday as investors assessed third-quarter earnings news.

cluding Wrangler and The North Face, were among the biggest gainers in the S&P 500 after reporting earnings that beat analysts' expectations. McDonalds dipped after reporting disappointing revenue. The S&P 500 closed up

2009. The Dow Jones industrial average edged down 7.45 points, or 0.1 percent, to 15,392.20. The Nasdaq composite rose 5.77 points, or 0.2 percent, to 3,920.05. Stocks will likely continue adding to their gains, at

October and then have a nice rally through November and December."

McDonald's fell 61 cents, or 0.6 percent, to \$94.59 after the world's biggest hamburger chain's revenue fell short of Wall Street analyst's expectations.

Hasbro surged after reporting that its net income rose 17 percent as sales increased. Its adjusted results and revenue topped analysts' estimates. Netflix jumped in after-hours trading after the company said its net income quadrupled to \$32 million, or 52 cents a share. That beat analyst expectations for 48 cents a share.

Companies in the S&P 500 are expected to report earnings growth of 3.2 percent for the July-to-September period, according to the latest data from S&P Capital IQ. About 60 percent of companies that have reported earnings have beaten analysts' expectations.

"Earnings so far have been excellent," said Jerry Braakman, chief investment officer of First American Trust. "Earnings are coming in and beating (expectations) by a penny here and there, and we're very comfortable with that."

Company earnings will likely continue to grow as the outlook for the global economy brightens, as Europe continues to recover from its recession and growth in China picks up, Braakman said. □



Specialists Gregg Maloney, left, and Mario Picone, second left, work at a post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. The Standard & Poor's 500 index eked out the smallest of gains to set a record high Monday as investors assessed third-quarter earnings news.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Earnings will hold investors' attention this week as major U.S. companies including McDonald's, Boeing and Procter & Gamble report their results. Rising profits have been one of the key supports for this year's rally in stocks.

Toymaker Hasbro and the V.F. Corporation, which owns clothing brands in-

a fraction of a point at 1,744.66, an all-time high, its third consecutive record close. Stocks climbed last week after Washington reached a deal to end a 16-day government shutdown and avert a default on the nation's debt.

The index is up 22 percent so far this year, putting it on track for its best year since

least until the end of the year, as investors get more confident that the market's rally is sustainable, said Joe Bell, a senior equities analyst at Schaeffer's Investment Research.

"We've had a pretty decent run here," Bell said. "It wouldn't surprise me if we saw the momentum slow a bit through the end of

Philips market share in lighting shining bright

TOBY STERLING
AP Business Writer

AMSTERDAM (AP) — The chief executive of Royal Philips NV says his company — already the world's biggest light maker — is winning market share in next-generation LED lighting technology.

While presenting third quarter earnings on a conference call Monday, Frans van Houten did not give a specific figure on the company's global market share. But the report showed LED lighting sales grew by 33 percent from a year ago in the three months through September. They accounted for 30 percent of the 2.08 billion euros (\$2.85 billion) in lighting sales Philips had in the quarter.

"We must be doing something right" he said.

Van Houten said Philips is now offering consumer LEDs in the U.S. for \$5 at Home Depot and in partnerships with several major utility companies.

"We see a strong uptake of that particular lamp," he said.

The "early adopters of LEDs were our professional customers but now we see rapid consumer adoption occurring."

He expects that trend to continue not only because the costs of individual lights are coming down, but also as technology enthusiasts explore the possibility of controlling LEDs via home wireless networks.

Philips reported third quarter net profit of 281 million euros (\$384 million), compared with 105 million euros in the same period a year ago, due mostly to cost-cutting. The company has shed 4,900 jobs over the past year, more than 4 percent of its 114,300 total. Sales fell 3.4 percent to 5.62 billion euros, but mainly because of the impact of the strong euro. The figures were better than analysts had expected, particularly for China and India, and shares rose 6.3 percent to 25.96 euros in Amsterdam trading. □

Hasbro 3Q results climb, helped by tax adjustment

PAWTUCKET, Rhode Island (AP) — Hasbro's third-quarter net income rose 17 percent, buoyed by a favorable tax adjustment and higher sales. Its adjusted results and revenue topped analysts' estimates.

Sales were strongest in the girls' category led by My Little Pony products and showed an increase in games, while sales in the boys' category fell and preschool sales slipped. Its stock rose in premarket trading on Monday.

The quarterly results come as toy makers gear up for

the holiday season, which can account for up to half their annual revenue.

The No. 2 toy maker earned \$193 million, or \$1.46 per share, for the three months ended Sept. 29. That compares with \$164.9 million, or \$1.24 per share, a year earlier.

Excluding 18 cents per share for the tax adjustment and restructuring and pension charges of 3 cents per share, earnings were \$1.31 per share. Analysts polled by FactSet expected adjusted earnings of \$1.30 per share, on average.

Revenue for the Pawtucket, Rhode Island, company rose 2 percent to \$1.37 billion on strong sales overseas and in its girls category and entertainment and licensing segment. Wall Street was calling for revenue of \$1.35 billion.

By category, Hasbro reported its strongest sales in the girls category — which was up 29 percent on the successful debut of My Little Pony Equestria Girls as well as the debut of Nerf Rebelle and increased sales of Furby and other My Little Pony products.

Sales of games rose 6 percent, its fourth straight quarterly increase. This was helped by higher sales of Jenga, the Elefun & Friends collection, Magic: The Gathering and the launch of the new Telepods game platform that includes the Angry Birds Star Wars II game.

In the boys category, sales dropped 17 percent as the Marvel and Beyblade brands faced tough year-ago comparisons. There were increased sales of Transformers and Star Wars products. □

SAP co-CEO says cloud computing growing strongly

DAVID McHUGH
AP Business Writer
FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— Business software maker SAP's strong growth in cloud computing remains on track despite headwinds from a stronger euro, the co-CEO said Monday. SAP's revenue from cloud computing — where companies use software based at servers instead of at their own offices — more than tripled in the third quarter, to 191 million euros (\$261 million) from 63 million euros a year earlier.

The business is smaller than SAP's older business installing and servicing software at companies.

But the cloud part of the business is showing much faster growth.

"We said we'd be the cloud company," Bill McDermott told the Associated Press on Monday, emphasizing the word "the."

"We are the fastest growing cloud story in the enterprise software world."

SAP AG, headquartered in Walldorf, Germany, said net profit rose 23 percent to 762 million euros as revenue rose 2 percent to 4.045 billion euros.

Net profit grew faster than top-line revenues in part because the company held down costs by restraining new hires.

It had 66,061 fulltime workers at the end of the quarter, up only 380 from a year ago once businesses the company has acquired were discounted.

The company's shares rose 5.3 percent to 56.32 euros in late afternoon trading in Europe.

Revenue from the company's older, on-site software business slipped 5 percent to 975 million euros — but grew 2 percent when excluding the impact of exchange rate shifts.

The company stayed with its forecast for sales and profit for the full year.

"The euro is unbelievably strong and there's nothing operationally that we could do about that," McDermott said. □

McDonald's 3Q profit rises, revenue misses Street

MAE ANDERSON
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — McDonald's is introducing some higher-priced options to its Dollar Menu and renaming it "Dollar Menu and More" to spur sales in the U.S. The company announced

options on the Dollar Menu, which currently features things like the Grilled Onion Cheddar Burger and a McChicken sandwich for a buck. The new "Dollar Menu and More" will include items including \$2 burgers and a \$5 20-piece

stores open at least a year fell for the first time in nearly a decade.

To boost sales, the company has been taking a two-pronged approach. On the one end, it's playing up its Dollar Menu and other affordable options to draw

ple, the company recently rolled out chicken wraps and the option to substitute egg whites in any of its breakfast sandwiches. Early next year, it also said it will start giving customers the option to pick a salad instead of fries with their value meals.

For the three months that ended on Sept. 30, net income rose to \$1.52 billion, or \$1.52 per share. That compared with \$1.46 billion, or \$1.43 per share, last year. Analysts expected \$1.51 per share, according to FactSet. Revenue rose 2 percent to \$7.32 billion from \$7.15 billion last year. Analysts expected \$7.33 billion. McDonald's, based in Oak Brook, Illinois, said sales in stores open at least 13 months rose 0.9 percent, including a 0.7 percent rise in the U.S. and a 0.2 percent rise in Europe. The measure, considered important because it gauges growth at continuing locations after stripping out recently opened and closed stores, fell 1.4 percent in the Asia/Pacific, Middle East and Africa regions.

"Our results reflect McDonald's ability to grow amid the broad-based challenges of the current environment by focusing on those areas of the business within our control," said CEO Don Thompson. □



A McDonald's restaurant sign is seen at a McDonald's restaurant in Chicago. The company reported mixed quarterly earnings on Monday, Oct. 21, 2013.

(AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)

the changes to its popular low-priced menu on Thursday, the same day that the world's biggest burger chain reported that its third-quarter profit rose 5 percent as it benefited from a Monopoly promotion in the U.S. and strength in the U.K. and Russia.

The company plans to introduce some \$2 and \$5

chicken McNuggets.

The menu tweaks come as McDonald's tries to regain its footing. After outperforming rivals for years, McDonald's has struggled recently as it faces heightened competition, shifting eating habits and tough economic conditions around the world. Late last year, its monthly sales at

in customers who may be watching their spending more carefully. The strategy has forced rivals Burger King and Wendy's to more aggressively push deals and promotions as well.

At the same time, McDonald's also is trying to adjust its image and menu to better reflect healthier eating habits. In the U.S., for exam-

Halliburton 3Q profit rises, tops Street view

DAVID KOENIG
AP Business Writer

DALLAS (AP) — Halliburton Co. boosted third-quarter net income by 17 percent on strong revenue from its international operations, which offset sluggish growth in North America.

Halliburton helps energy producers drill for oil and gas, and it's still seeing too much capacity for pressure-pumping services in North America as oilfield-service companies fight for a bigger share of the shale oil and gas boom. That's driving down prices for contractors like Halliburton. "We anticipate pricing pressure will continue as contracts renew during the

next quarter or so," Chairman and CEO Dave Lesar said on a conference call with analysts. "Accordingly, we are already working on adjusting our cost structure," which he said would include job reductions.

Company officials told analysts that as they learn to operate more efficiently, they found they had too many people for the available work. That doesn't foreshadow a longer slowdown in the business, they said, and they didn't give job-cut figures. Halliburton took \$38 million to cover severance payments and write down asset values in the quarter.

Houston-based Hallibur-



The Halliburton sign adorns the side of a machine being used by the company at a site for natural-gas producer Williams in Rulison, Colo. Halliburton reported strong quarterly earnings on Monday, Oct. 21, 2013.

(AP Photo/David Zalubowski)

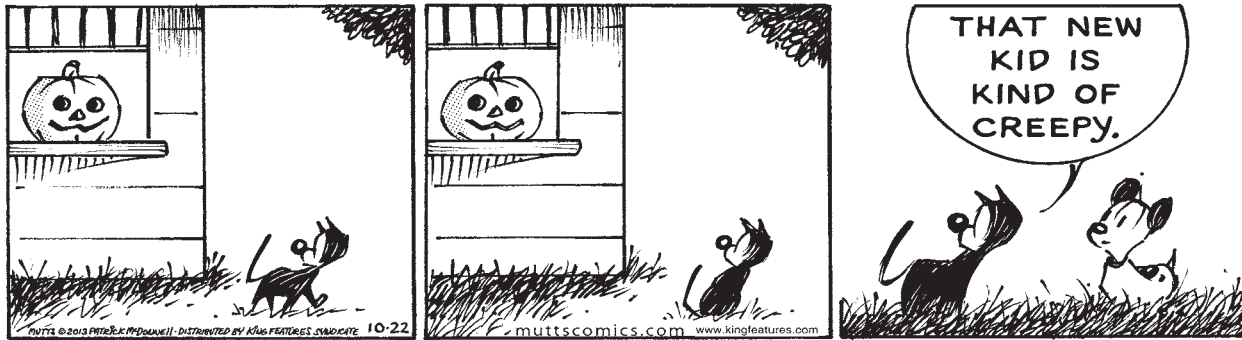
ton also said operations in Colorado continued to be affected by last month's flooding.

The stock fell \$1.10, or 2.1 percent, to \$51.37 in mid-day trading. The shares began the day up 51 percent

in 2013.

For the three months ended Sept. 30, the Houston-based company earned \$706 million, or 79 cents per share. Its earnings were \$707 million excluding discontinued operations. □

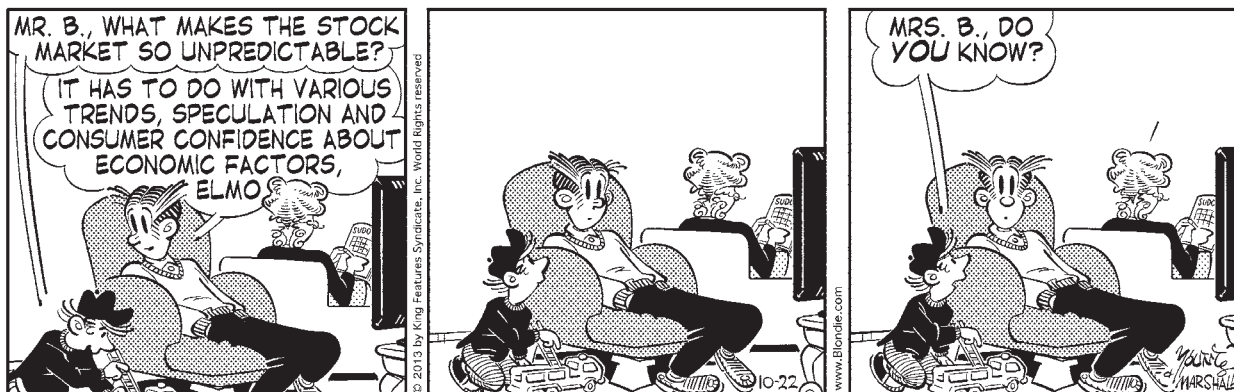
Mutts



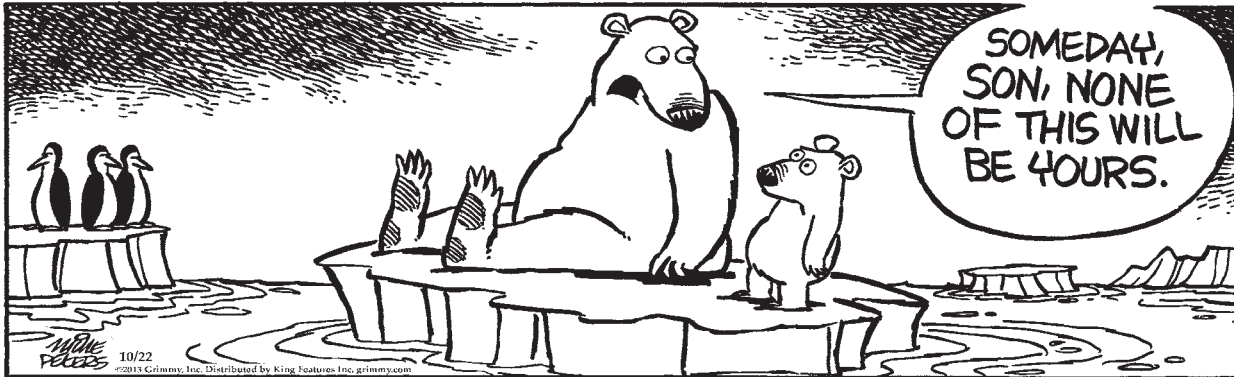
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

5			6	9	7			8
		3				6		
	9				5		4	
4		7						2
2				8				3
1						5		4
	4		5				8	
		2				7		
6			9	2	1			5

Difficulty Level ★★

10/22

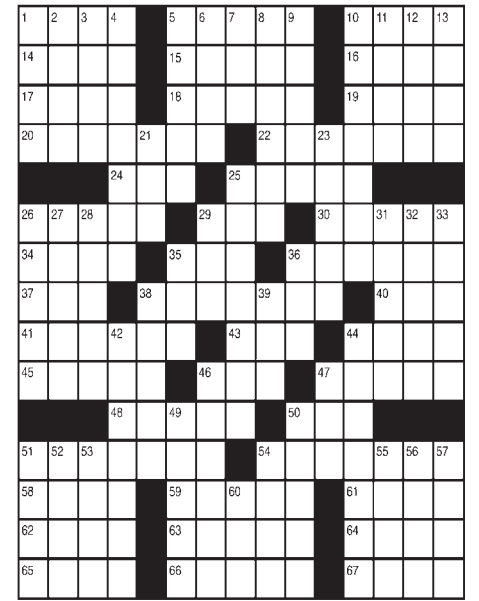
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

2	8	4	6	9	3	5	1	7
9	3	5	8	7	1	4	2	6
7	6	1	5	4	2	8	9	3
6	4	9	2	1	7	3	5	8
5	7	2	3	8	4	9	6	1
3	1	8	9	6	5	7	4	2
1	5	6	4	3	8	2	7	9
4	9	3	7	2	6	1	8	5
8	2	7	1	5	9	6	3	4

ACROSS

- Grooves
- Meanies
- Lather
- Perched upon
- Pass out
- "Right away!" for short
- Lady ___ of the music world
- Leg bone
- Place to buy a sandwich
- Abbreviate
- Thrill
- Barbie's beau
- One of the five senses
- Cuddly looking marsupial
- Caribbean or Adriatic
- Instruct
- Hitchhiker's hope
- Scout group
- Capital of the Bahamas
- Over-the-hill
- Satan
- Total
- Pres. Mandela
- Cereal grain
- Beatles movie
- Skilled
- Go astray
- Elephant teeth
- Hicks
- Auction offer
- Big husky man
- Attitude
- At ___; relaxed
- Went public with
- Etna's output
- Religious sisters
- Find a new purpose for
- Hardly ___; seldom
- Bench board
- Gown or frock
- Fender blemish



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/22/13

Monday's Puzzle Solved

KATES	SPAN	PAPA
ITALY	HALE	AGED
SOLES	ASPS	READ
SPECTERS	TRANCE	
TEND	PLANTED	
PLASMA	DIEGO	
IOU	SCORN	SIEGE
TUNA	TROTH	DALY
ATTIC	GLOOM	CEE
RURAL	NICHES	
UMPTEN	JOSH	
RELISH	PERFORMS	
BRAG	ABLE	ISAAC
ARCH	SOAP	TERRA
NYET	HANS	SNEER

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10/22/13

DOWN

- Washcloths
- "Beehive State"

- So ___; till now
- Live!iest
- Crowded together
- Spookier
- Cheap metal
- Facial hair
- one's time; waits
- Affleck & Stiller
- Late actor Julia
- Acad. in Annapolis
- Cluttered state
- Rescue
- if; albeit
- Sour
- Regret

Another butt-debacle, this time at Patriots' expense

BILL PENNINGTON

© 2013 New York Times

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.

About 11 months ago, the New York Jets lost a game against the New England Patriots, at least in part because of a butt fumble. On Sunday, they won a game against the Patriots, at least in part because of a butt push.

The latest bizarre episode

game-winning field-goal attempt of their own.

As Folk's kick drifted wide, New England quarterback Tom Brady reached for his helmet on the sideline.

"Then I saw the flag," Brady said later. "I didn't know what they called. I'm still not sure what the call was." The penalty was for Rule 9-1-3, instituted this season. It prohibits defenders on

his teammate Will Svitek as he charged forward attempting to block the kick. The flag was thrown almost immediately, and after a brief conference, a 15-yard penalty was assessed. Given a second chance minutes later, Folk made a 42-yard field goal to win the game.

On the same field where Mark Sanchez had col-

a stunning victory. On Sunday, when it was over, the Jets all but skipped off the field.

The Patriots retreated to their locker room wondering how things had gone so wrong so fast. They had been in a clearly advantageous position when Folk's first overtime field-goal attempt did not end the game. One history-making penalty and one shorter field-goal attempt later, the Jets were back in the race for the AFC East title.

Afterward, Patriots coach Bill Belichick looked dumbfounded, standing rigid at a lectern as he mumbled nearly incoherent responses to questions. While that might be his routine post-game demeanor, win or lose, Belichick seemed especially thunderstruck.

Asked if it was any harder or easier to lose because an official whistled the Patriots for a penalty that had never been called, Belichick uttered a nearly inaudible but entirely believable "I don't know." □



New York Jets kicker Nick Folk (2) reacts after kicking the game-winning field goal during overtime of an NFL football game Sunday, Oct. 20, 2013, in East Rutherford, N.J. The Jets won the game 30-27. An ill-timed, two-handed push by Patriots defensive lineman Chris Jones 4 plays earlier led to a penalty that had never been called since the league's founding in the 1920s.

(AP Photo/Peter Morgan)

in the long, strange rivalry between the Jets and the Patriots made NFL history. An ill-timed, two-handed push by Patriots defensive lineman Chris Jones led to a penalty that had never been called since the league's founding in the 1920s.

And four plays after that unprecedented penalty, the Jets had won in overtime, 30-27.

The pivotal moment that shoved the Jets to victory in a game that will not soon be forgotten occurred about eight minutes into overtime as Jets place-kicker Nick Folk was missing a 56-yard field-goal try. Attempting the kick had been a risky decision by coach Rex Ryan because a miss would have put the Patriots at their 46 - roughly 25 yards from being in position to convert a makable,

a field-goal attempt from pushing a teammate into the offensive formation. Jones, lined up to the left of the Jets' center, shifted to his right just after the snap and, using his hands, pushed at the backside of

lided with the rump of lineman Brandon Moore on Thanksgiving Day last year - leading to a fumble that the Patriots' Steve Gregory returned for a touchdown in a 49-19 New England rout - the Jets had earned

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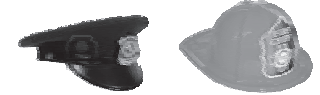
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Tel: 587-0002

Argentines link health problems to agrochemicals

**MICHAEL WARREN
NATACHA PISARENKO
Associated Press**

**BASAVILBASO, Argentina
(AP)** — Argentine farm-

worker Fabian Tomasi wasn't trained to use protective gear as he pumped pesticides into crop dusters. Now at 47, he's a living skeleton.

Schoolteacher Andrea Druetta lives in a town where it's illegal to spray agrochemicals within 500 meters (550 yards) of homes, and yet soy is planted just 30 meters (33 yards) from her back door. Recently, her boys were showered in chemicals while swimming in their backyard pool.

Sofia Gatica's search for answers after losing her newborn to kidney failure led to Argentina's first criminal convictions for illegal spraying last year. But 80 percent of her neighbors' children surveyed carry pesticides in their blood.

American biotechnology has turned Argentina into the world's third-largest soy producer, but the chemicals powering the boom



In this March 31, 2013, photo, Camila Veron, 2, born with multiple organ problems and severely disabled, stands outside her home in Avia Terai, in Chaco province, Argentina. Doctors told Camila's mother, Silvia Achaval that agrochemicals may be to blame. It's nearly impossible to prove that exposure to a specific chemical caused an individual's cancer or birth defect, but doctors say these cases merit a rigorous government investigation. "They told me that the water made this happen, because they spray a lot of poison here," said Achaval

two times to four times higher than the national average. In Chaco, the nation's poorest province, children became four times more likely to be born with devastating birth defects in the decade since

undergone a remarkable transformation since 1996, when the St. Louis-based Monsanto Company marketed a promising new model of higher crop yields and fewer pesticides through its patented seeds and chemicals.

Today, all of Argentina's soy and nearly all its corn, wheat and cotton are genetically modified. Soy farming tripled to 47 million acres (19 million hectares), and just like in the U.S., cattle are now fattened in feedlots on corn and soy.

But as weeds and insects became resistant, farmers increased the chemical burden eightfold, from 9 million gallons (34 million liters) in 1990 to more than 84 million gallons (317 million liters) today. Overall, Argentine farmers apply an estimated 4.3 pounds of agrochemical concentrate per acre, more than twice what U.S. farmers use, according to an AP analysis of government and pesticide industry data. Monsanto's "Roundup" pesticides use glyphosate, one of the world's most widely applied and least toxic weed killers. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and many others have declared it to be safe if applied properly.

Associated Press

In May, the EPA even increased allowable glyphosate residues on foods.

Despite the wholesale adoption of Monsanto's model, safety rules vary.

Some of Argentina's 23 provinces ban spraying within 3 kilometers (1.9 miles) of populated areas; others say farmers can spray as close as 50 meters (55 yards). About one-third set no limits, and rule-breakers are very rarely punished.

A federal law requires toxic chemical applicators to suspend activities that threaten public health, "even when the link has not been scientifically proven," and "no matter the costs or consequences," but it has never been applied to farming, the Auditor General found last year.

In response to soaring complaints, President Cristina Fernandez ordered a commission in 2009 to study the impact of agrochemical spraying on human health. Its initial report called for "systematic controls over concentrations of herbicides and their compounds ... such as exhaustive laboratory and field studies involving formulations containing glyphosate as well as its interactions with other agro-

chemicals as they are actually used in our country." But the commission hasn't met since 2010, the auditor general found.

Agriculture Secretary Lorenzo Basso said people are being misinformed.

"I've seen countless documents, surveys, videos, articles in the news and in universities, and really our citizens who read all this end up dizzy and confused," he said. "Our model as an exporting nation has been called into question. We need to defend our model." In a written statement, Monsanto spokesman Thomas Helscher said the company "does not condone the misuse of pesticides or the violation of any pesticide law, regulation, or court ruling."

"Monsanto takes the stewardship of products seriously and we communicate regularly with our customers regarding proper use of our products," Helscher said. Argentina was among the earliest adopters of the "no-till" method U.S. agribusinesses promoted. Instead of turning the topsoil, spraying pesticides, and then waiting until the poison dissipates before planting, farmers sow seeds and spray afterward without harming "Roundup Ready" crops genetically modified to tolerate specific poisons. Farmers can now harvest multiple crops each year on land that wasn't profitable before.

But pests quickly develop resistance to the same chemicals applied to identical crops on a vast scale, forcing farmers to mix in more toxic poisons, such as 2,4,D, used in "Agent Orange" to defoliate Vietnam's jungles. Some Argentine regulators called for labels warning that these mixtures should be limited to "farm areas far from homes and population centers," but they were ignored, the auditor found.

*"Glyphosate is even less toxic than the repellent you put on your children's skin," said Pablo Vaquero, Monsanto's spokesman in Buenos Aires. □



In this March 29, 2013, photo, former farmworker Fabian Tomasi, 47, shows the condition of his emaciated body as he stands inside his home in Basavilbaso, in Entre Rios province, Argentina.

Associated Press

aren't confined to soy and cotton and corn fields. The Associated Press documented dozens of cases where these poisons are used in ways specifically banned by existing law.

Now doctors are warning that uncontrolled pesticide use could be the cause of growing health problems among the 12 million people who live in the South American nation's vast farm belt.

In Santa Fe province, the heart of Argentina's soy industry, cancer rates are

biotechnology dramatically expanded industrial agriculture.

"The change in how agriculture is produced has brought, frankly, a change in the profile of diseases," says Dr. Medardo Avila Vazquez, a pediatrician who co-founded Doctors of Fumigated Towns. "We've gone from a pretty healthy population to one with a high rate of cancer, birth defects, and illnesses seldom seen before."

Once known for its grass-fed beef, Argentina has



This Jan. 19, 2012 file photo shows entertainer Dolly Parton during a news conference in Nashville, Tenn., to announce plans for a water-snow park.

Associated Press

Dolly Parton suffers minor injuries in crash

CHRIS TALBOTT
AP Music Writer

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)

— Dolly Parton is home resting after being treated and released for minor injuries she suffered in a car crash she described as “a fender bender.”

Kirt Webster says Parton was already home Monday afternoon following the accident that happened shortly before noon local time in Nashville, Ten-

nessee. Parton says in a statement that she’s “all good. Just a little tired and sore.”

Police say the 67-year-old Country Music Hall of Fame member was riding in a sport utility vehicle that was hit by another vehicle. Parton and the two others were taken to local hospitals for treatment.

A news release says none of the injuries appeared serious. □

Brian Wilson says he’s gotten better over time

MESFIN FEKADU
AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Brian Wilson says that with time, he’s become a stronger performer.

“It’s gotten better. We’ve had a little practice. ... The musicianship, the vocals have gotten better,” he said in a recent interview.

Wilson is on a joint tour with Jeff Beck. It wraps Oct. 30 in Milwaukee and includes Al Jardine and David Marks.

Wilson, the 71-year-old singer and songwriter, even said he’s improved since the Beach Boys’ 50th anniversary tour last year: “It was a very sentimental experience, but the vocals are even better now.”

Wilson wouldn’t talk about the drama with Mike Love surrounding the band or what the future of the group entailed. Wilson and Love, cousins and founding members of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame band that helped crystalize the California sound of the 1960s, have been embroiled in a series of divisive lawsuits.

Close to three hours long, Wilson and Beck’s collaborative concert kicks off



In this Thursday, Oct. 17, 2013 file photo, singer Brian Wilson performs at the “Right To Rock Benefit” at Cipriani Wall Street, in New York. Wilson says with time, he’s become a stronger performer.

Associated Press

with traditional Beach Boys hits, Beck’s set and then an encore together. At one point, 17 people are onstage.

“I was totally and utterly mesmerized — the sound and the performance, all the harmonies, just mind-boggling,” the English guitarist said of watching Wilson and the others per-

form. Beck first performed with Wilson at his MusiCares Person of the Year tribute in 2006.

Wilson also said he’s working on a new album, which he said is half-done and includes contributions from Beck.

“So far it’s mellow music, medium rock, slow rock,” he said. □

A history of a city and its liberal ideals

ANN LEVIN
Associated Press

No guide to Amsterdam is complete without a mention of tulips, canals and legalized pot and prostitution. In Russell Shorto’s engaging new history of his adopted city, he, too, touches on these well-worn subjects.

But Shorto is more interested in exploring how a city of 800,000 souls — roughly the size of Columbus, Ohio — “has influenced the modern world to a degree that perhaps no other city has.” He argues that it has done so because over the centuries, through a combination of collective action and self-seeking individualism, Amsterdam has

come to embody the most cherished ideals of Western democratic society, including tolerance, diversity and civil rights.

When Shorto writes that Amsterdam may well be the birthplace of liberalism, he doesn’t mean “liberal” in the sense that it’s used in American political debate. He’s referring to “a commitment to individual freedom and individual rights, and not just for oneself but for everyone.” He means liberalism in its original sense of “free,” from the Latin word *liber*.

Shorto’s attempt to understand Amsterdam feels urgent, in part because he recognizes that these values are threatened today.

“While liberalism is one of our most precious cultural possessions,” he writes, “it can also be overstretched, belittled, squandered.”

But “Amsterdam” isn’t just a book about big ideas. It features a lively cast of characters, both famous and obscure, including Erasmus, Spinoza and Rembrandt. And it brims with the sights, smells and sounds of a nearly thousand-year-old bustling, mercantile city.

Bicycling through his neighborhood with his toddler son strapped to the handlebars, Shorto notices a “white cleanness ... a rinsed quality” to the morning light. He describes the “deep, icy, impetuously heaving waters” of the



This photo provided by Doubleday shows the cover of the book, “Amsterdam: A History of the World’s Most Liberal

nearby North Sea. A few chapters later, we’re back on the waterfront, this time

to witness the return of a fleet from the East Indies, laden with more than a million pounds of pepper, cloves and nutmeg, “packed with exquisite care into the hulls.”

Shorto’s previous works include a well-regarded book on the Dutch origins of Manhattan. It’s fitting, then, that for his latest effort he burrows back even farther — to investigate the European civilization that sent forth its emissaries to the New World to lay the foundation for modern-day New York.

Countless books have been written about Holland’s capital city, from prosaic tourist guides to scholarly tomes. □



In this Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2013 file photo, Britney Spears arrives for the announcement for her new show at Planet Hollywood Vegas in Las Vegas. Talking to the Associated Press in London, Tuesday Oct. 15, 2013, the 31-year old singer says these days she juggles the demands of an international singing career with taking care of her two sons.

Associated Press

Britney: Balancing 'crazy mom' home life with work

LOUISE DIXON
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britney Spears may take on a sexy pop star persona in the video for her latest single "Work B----," but at home she says she feels like a "crazy mom."

Speaking in London, the 31-year old singer says these days she juggles the demands of an international singing career with taking care of her two sons, Sean, 8, and 7-year-old Jayden. "Once you've done a shoot ... you have to come in and do homework and fix dinner twice and it's a lot of work," she told The Associated Press in an Oct. 15 interview. "But I think as women we just manage it, we make it work."

Spears says she worked hard with her fitness trainer to get into top shape for her new video, sticking to two or three small meals each day. The American singer admitted, however, that she struggled to stave off food cravings in the weeks leading up to the video shoot, saying: "I love to eat my popcorn at night!" And the first thing she ate afterward?

"Just chocolate, chocolate, chocolate," she said.

"Work B----" is the lead single from Spears' 8th studio album "Britney Jean" — the name her family calls her — and she says it's her most personal album to date. Produced with will.i.am, Spears co-wrote every track, including a song about her split with Jason Trawick in January.

"I think it will make girls not feel alone in this situation," she explained. "When they're alone in their room and they broke up with their boyfriend, they have a song they can go to and listen to, just makes them feel better about themselves."

Not content with just a new single and a new album, the singer is also preparing for a Las Vegas residency at the Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino. In a show titled "Britney: Piece of Me," Spears will perform 50 dates over two years.

The Grammy-winner says she has a vocal coach to strengthen her voice for the show. She described the process as "grueling" — but says she can't wait for the experience.

"I know I'll be nervous, but I'm going to be excited, too. It's going to be cool," she said. □

Charting 5 centuries of African American history



This Aug. 7, 2013 photo provided by Rahoul Ghose/PBS shows Henry Louis Gates Jr. during PBS' "The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross with Henry Louis Gates Jr." session at the Television Critics Association Summer Press Tour in Los Angeles. Civil rights icon Ruby Bridges, journalist Charlayne Hunter-Gault and Henry Louis Gates Jr. discuss the chronicle of the African-American experience. The new PBS documentary series that traces 500 years of black history premieres Tuesdays, Oct. 22 - Nov. 26, 2013, 8:00-9:00 p.m. ET.

Associated Press

FRAZIER MOORE
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Slavery in the United States was once a roaring success whose wounds still afflict the country today.

So says Henry Louis Gates, Jr., who examines both its success and shame in "The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross," his new PBS documentary series that traces 500 years of black history.

"Slavery is a perfect example of why we need limits on the more unfortunate aspects of human nature," he says. "Slavery was capitalism gone berserk."

The horrifically profitable practice of slavery and the brutal inhumanity of Jim Crow loom large in "The African Americans" (premiering Tuesday at 8 p.m. EDT; check local listings), which, through its six hours, performs a neat trick: Its reach extends far beyond American shores, venturing through the Caribbean region and all the way to Africa, while deftly folding this sprawl of black history into the larger American story that, too often, has kept the role of black America shunted to the margins.

Slavery — "the supreme hypocrisy" — was always an essential ingredient of the American experiment. White America always drew heavily on the labor, culture and traditions of blacks while denying them due credit in exchange, not to mention their human rights.

The father of our country was one of its largest slave owners, even as one of his slaves, Harry Washington, understandably fled to join a British regiment and fight against the patriots.

"Because of the profound disconnect between principles of the Declaration of Independence and the simultaneous practice of slavery, we've had historical amnesia about slavery," Gates was saying in a recent interview. "We still see the effects, and feel them." Even the site for the nation's capital city — Washington, D.C. — was chosen to accommodate the mighty bloc of Southern slave owners.

And the series also notes that, among too many other cruel paradoxes, slaves cut the stone and laid the bricks for the U.S. Capitol.

"The African Americans" doesn't fall prey to white scapegoating. For instance, Africans practiced slavery long before white Europeans cashed in, and Gates journeys to Sierra Leone, where he visits with Africans whose forebears profited from it.

Gates — an author, Harvard scholar, social critic and filmmaker — is more interested in recognizing and discovering off-neglected pieces of the American puzzle.

The series starts with what Gates deems a down-right scoop. It turns out the very first African to come to North America was a free man accompanying Spanish explorers who arrived in Florida in 1513. This was more than a century before the first 20 African slaves were brought to the British colony of Jamestown by pirates who traded them for food.

Thus does his series roll the clock back 106 years to a largely unknown starting point in African-American history.

From there, it covers slavery, the Civil War, the Jim Crow era and the rise of civil rights. □

The President's Pivot



CHARLES M. BLOW
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"Thus it is that in war the victorious strategist only seeks battle after the victory has been won, whereas he who is destined to defeat first fights and afterwards looks for victory."

That quote, from Sun Tzu's ancient Chinese treatise "The Art of War," perfectly captures President Barack Obama's strategic victory over Tea Party members of Congress on the government shutdown and the debt ceiling debate. It also explains his immediate pivot to another topic that Tea Partiers hate and over which their obstinacy is likely to get the party hammered again: comprehensive immigration reform.

This is a brilliant tactical move on the president's part. And Republicans know it.

As the GOP was nearing its moment of collapse on the shutdown and debt ceiling, Rep. Raúl Labrador, R-Idaho, said, "I think it'd be crazy for the House Republican leadership to enter into negotiations with him on immigration."

He continued: "And I'm a proponent of immigration reform. So I think what he's done over the last two and a half weeks - he's trying to destroy the Republican Party. And I think that anything we do right now with this president on immigration will be with that same goal in mind: which is to try to destroy the Republican Party and not to get good policies."

The conservative columnist Charles Krauthammer laid out the president's calculus more bluntly on Fox News: "With immigration, he wins either way. I'm not sure he thinks he can get it passed, seeing the resistance among the Republicans to the deal over the budget. I think he knows he's not going to have a good chance of getting immigration through, but he thinks - and he's probably right - that he can exploit this for the mid-term election as a way to gin up support, for the Democrats to portray the Republicans as anti-immigrant, anti-Hispanic, etc." Republicans have a tough choice.

They can ride shotgun once again with the politically suicidal Tea Party faction, a group that the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press found this week to be "less popular than ever."

They can allow the most stri-

dent voices on the far right that oppose comprehensive immigration reform - Rush Limbaugh has likened it to the Republican Party's "authoring its demise" - to direct their path and further alienate Hispanic voters, who are increasingly coming to see the party as an unwelcoming place. Mitt Romney lost the Hispanic vote by 44 points last year, and the Republican National Committee's own autopsy on that loss surmised:

"If Hispanic Americans perceive that a GOP nominee or candidate does not want them in the United States (i.e., self-deportation), they will not pay attention to our next sentence. It does not matter what we say about education, jobs or the economy; if Hispanics think we do not want them here, they will close their ears to our policies."

Or Republicans can take the less likely path and demonstrate that they've been cowed enough to move ahead on a major piece of legislation that is supported by the majority of the American people - a July Gallup poll found that 71 percent of Americans believe that passing immigration reform is important. And that would be good not just for the president's legacy but for the health of the country as a whole. In a 2012 paper published by the Cato Institute, Raúl Hinojosa Ojeda, director of the North American Integration and Development Center at the University of California, Los Angeles, used computing models to estimate the following:

"Comprehensive immigration reform generates an annual increase in U.S. GDP of at least 0.84 percent.

This amounts to \$1.5 trillion in additional GDP over 10 years. It also boosts wages for both native-born and newly legalized immigrant workers."

Comprehensive immigration reform is the right thing and the thing that Americans want. But the far right is hardly concerned with what's right and has little appetite for agreeing with the will of the majority of the American people (despite talking ad nauseam about standing up for the American people).

The far right is angry at the government and the man at the top of it.

According to a Pew Research report released Friday: "Anger at the federal government is most pronounced among Tea Party Republicans. Fully 55 percent of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents who agree with the Tea Party say they are angry with the federal government - about double the percentage among non-Tea Party Republicans (27 percent) and Democrats and Democratic leaners (25 percent)."

They have been blinded by that anger.

The president knows that. And he knows that blind soldiers don't often win battles. In choosing to pivot to immigration reform, he has created a win-win scenario for himself and the Democrats. Clever, clever. □



Cat On A Hot Stove



MAUREEN DOWD
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WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama won big.

So why did the moment feel so small?

At his victory scold in the State Dining Room on Thursday, the president who yearned to be transformational stood beneath an oil portrait of Abraham Lincoln and demanded ... a farm bill. He also couldn't resist taking a holier-than-thou tone toward his tail-between-their-legs Tea Party foes. He assumed his favorite role of the shining knight hectoring the benighted: Sir Lecturealot.

"All of us need to stop focusing on the lobbyists and the bloggers and the talking heads on radio and the professional activists who profit from conflict," he sermonized. (We have met the enemy and they are ... bloggers?) Certainly, the House Republicans who held their breath until the country turned blue acted like foolhardy children on what John McCain called "a fool's errand." The country agreed. So it probably wasn't necessary for papa to preach, overacting the role of weary parent watching the irresponsible kids make their mistakes.

Sir Lecturealot, who hates selling and explaining and negotiating and cajoling and knocking noggins, always manages to convey tedium at the idea that he actually has to persuade people to come along with him, given the fact that he feels he's doing what's right.

Obama says he will now work for

an immigration bill and a budget deal with deficit cuts. But as Peter Nicholas and Carol E. Lee pointed out in The Wall Street Journal, the president did not mention his more ambitious goals: hiking the minimum wage, widening access to preschool education, and shoring up bridges and roads.

"Those efforts require bipartisan consensus that may be even more elusive amid the ill will carried over from the budget fight," they wrote.

McCain, who excoriated the Tea Party zanies and voted with the president, indicated to The Journal that the president had poisoned the well. "A lot of us are resentful that he didn't negotiate as hard as we think he could have or should have," he said. He told CNN that if Obama did not "engage" with his adversaries, "obviously you're not going to be a successful president." Democrats, too, chided the president for being the diffident debutante.

"This is a town where it's not enough to feel you have the right answers," Leon Panetta, the former congressman, Clinton chief of staff, CIA director and defense chief, pointedly told Washington reporters. "You've got to roll up your sleeves, and you've got to really engage in the process."

Sen. Dianne Feinstein also urged presidential leadership, noting that Obama "stepped back" partly because he felt "burned" by all the scabrous budget fights. But as Mark Twain said, "We should be careful to get out of an experience only the wisdom that is in it and stop there lest we be like the cat that sits down on a hot stove lid. She will never sit down on a hot stove lid again and that is well but also she will never sit down on a cold one anymore."

And if Obama is anything, he's a cold cat on a hot stove.

Washington is surpassingly nutty right now, but the founding fathers did build a system designed for factional warfare. When sweet reasonableness doesn't work, Obama's default position is didactic disdain. He underuses the fear and charm cards. When

he first saw the White House movie theater, he was surprised there were so many seats beyond what the first family would need. Bill Clinton, on the other hand, probably would have built a balcony and auctioned off seats, if he could have.

As Valerie Jarrett told David Remnick in "The Bridge," Obama's "uncanny" abilities need to be properly engaged, or he disengages. "He's been bored to death his whole life," she said. "He's just too talented to do what ordinary people do."

Matt Viser wrote in The Boston Globe that, while Obama soared talking about getting past blue-and-red slicing and dicing, the blue states are getting bluer and the red states redder. In his state-side travel schedule, political meetings, staffing and legislative accomplishments, Obama has cleaved to the blue side more than he has tried to reach out to the red side, Viser wrote.

After Sir Lecturealot admonished both parties on their divisiveness in his 2010 State of the Union address, Viser said, the president did not have his first one-on-one with John Boehner for another year and a half, and has only met individually with Mitch McConnell twice.

When the president says "we've all got a lot of work to do," he means Harry Reid and Nancy Pelosi. Obamacare should really be called Pelosicare, as the historian Niall Ferguson noted. And an unyielding Reid made sure Obama didn't cave as in the past, which had emboldened Republicans to challenge the president this time. Obama is the anti-Lyndon Johnson.

He thinks he can come down from above, de haut en bas, and play the great reconciler, but you can't reconcile in absentia. You have to be there. You've got to be all over these people.

The paradox of Obama is that he believes in his own magical powers, but then he doesn't turn up to use them.

There's nothing wrong with a president breaking a sweat somewhere beyond the basketball court. □

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